



Trump threatens to shut Mexico border - 'not kidding around'

By CATHERINE LUCEY,
NOMAAN MERCHANT and
JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) —

Threatening drastic action against Mexico, President Donald Trump declared on Friday he is likely to shut down America's southern border next week unless Mexican authorities immediately halt all illegal immigration. Such a severe move could hit the economies of both countries, but the president emphasized, "I am not kidding around." "It could mean all trade" with Mexico, Trump said when questioned by reporters in Florida. "We will close it for a long time." Trump has been promising for more than two years to build a long, impenetrable wall along the border to stop illegal immigration, though Congress has been reluctant to provide the money he needs. In the meantime, he has repeat-

edly threatened to close the border, but this time, with a new surge of migrants heading north, he gave a definite timetable. A substantial closure could have an especially heavy impact on cross-border communities from San Diego to South Texas, as well as supermarkets that sell Mexican produce, factories that rely on imported parts, and other businesses across the U.S.

The U.S. and Mexico trade about \$1.7 billion in goods daily, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which said closing the border would be "an unmitigated economic debacle" that would threaten 5 million American jobs.

Trump tweeted Friday morning, "If Mexico doesn't immediately stop ALL illegal immigration coming into the United States through our Southern Border, I will be CLOSING the Border, or large sections of the Bor-



President Donald Trump speaks to reporters during a visit to Lake Okeechobee and Herbert Hoover Dike at Canal Point, Fla., Friday, March 29, 2019.

Associated Press

der, next week."

In Florida, he didn't qualify his threat with "or large sections," stating: "There is a very good likelihood I'll be closing the border next

week, and that is just fine with me."

He said several times that it would be "so easy" for Mexican authorities to stop immigrants passing through

their country and trying to enter the U.S. illegally, "but they just take our money and 'talk.'"

Continued on Page 3



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Emails show FDA worry after romaine outbreaks

By CANDICE CHOI

AP Food & Health Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After repeated food poisoning outbreaks tied to romaine lettuce, a U.S. food safety official shared his concerns in an internal email, saying the produce industry's water testing "failed in an epic and tragic way."

How the industry tests water to grow leafy greens is "unacceptable" and needs to change, James Gorny, a senior adviser for produce safety at the Food and Drug Administration, wrote to agency leaders.

The message last November, obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request, came days before the



In this Jan. 31, 2012 file photo, a farm worker carries heads of romaine lettuce in a field near Holtville, Calif.

Associated Press

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agency warned people to avoid romaine ahead of Thanksgiving. Just months earlier in April, another E. coli outbreak linked to romaine had sickened more than 200 and killed five. That was later linked to an irrigation canal near a massive cattle lot in Arizona; the fall outbreak was linked to a water reservoir in California. In both cases, regulators never confirmed how the water became contaminated.

Though the FDA has publicly called on the leafy greens industry to step up safety, the emails offer a stark view of the agency's longstanding frustrations with continued outbreaks.

They also show how the agency leveraged the crisis to pressure for voluntary changes, even as it tries to figure out its own water testing rules.

In a statement, the FDA said it has been working with growers and state agencies to improve safety since the outbreaks, including testing of romaine. The agency said new regulations that include farm inspections and sanitary rules for workers also should help stem outbreaks.

Industry groups said they're expanding existing safety practices for their members. Joining the industry agreements is voluntary, however, and a farm linked

to the fall outbreak was not a member.

Food poisoning outbreaks tied to leafy greens have been an ongoing concern for health officials. The failure of industry measures to stop outbreaks shows the lack of a clear solution, and even regulators aren't sure how to fix the problem, said Timothy Lytton, a food safety expert at Georgia State University.

This month, the FDA delayed a regulation requiring produce growers to test water for E. coli — which is how the leafy greens industry has been monitoring its water. The presence of E. coli doesn't necessarily make people sick, but can signal potentially harmful strains. The agency said it needs more time to consider whether it's the most practical option.

"That's essentially just stepping back and asking industry to take responsibility for public safety," said Sarah Sorscher of the Center for Science in the Public Interest. Gorny's emails came during the fall outbreak tied to California growing regions. In a message in late November, he noted additional, recent illnesses with a strain similar to the earlier spring outbreak.

The FDA said it never tied those additional illnesses to a food. But at the time, Gorny called it a "near miss" that shows the problem wasn't fixed. □



MEXICO BORDER**Continued from Front**

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen suggested Trump was referring to the ongoing surge of mostly Central American families heading north through Mexico. Many people who cross the border illegally ultimately request asylum under U.S. law, which does not require asylum seekers to enter at an official crossing.

Short of a widespread shutdown, Nielsen said the U.S. might close designated ports of entry to re-deploy staff to help process parents and children. Ports of entry are official crossing points that are used by residents and commercial vehicles.

"If we have to close ports to take care of all of the numbers who are coming, we will do that," Nielsen said. "So it's on the table, but what we're doing is a very structured process based on operational needs."

The White House did not immediately respond to questions about whether Trump's possible action would apply to air travel. Trump's latest declaration came after Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said his country was doing its part to fight migrant smuggling. Criminal networks charge thousands of dollars a person to move migrants through Mexico, increasingly in large groups toward remote sections of the border.

"We want to have a good relationship with the government of the United States," Lopez Obrador said Friday. He added: "We are going to continue helping so that the migratory flow, those who pass through our country, do so according to the law, in an orderly way."

Marcelo Ebrard, Mexico's foreign relations secretary, tweeted that his country "doesn't act based on threats" and is "the best neighbor" the U.S. could have.

Customs and Border Protection commissioner Kevin McAleenan said Wednesday that 750 border inspectors would be reassigned to deal with the growing number of migrant families, and

the DHS official said Friday that the department was seeking volunteers from other agencies to help. In Florida, Trump was also asked about the two migrant children who died in U.S. custody in December. Is the administration equipped to handle sick children who are detained?

"I think that it has been very well stated that we have done a fantastic job," he said, defending Border Patrol efforts to help the children.

Trump said that in one of the cases "the father gave the child no water for a long period of time."

"It was a very tough situation and that trek up, that's a long hard trek," he said.

"It's a horrible situation. But Mexico could stop it."

Democratic and Republican lawmakers have fought over Trump's contention that there is a "crisis" at the border, particularly amid his push for a border wall, which he claims will solve immigration problems, though a wall wouldn't keep out families who cross at official points so they can surrender and be detained.

The president called on Congress to immediately change what he said were weak U.S. immigration laws, which he blamed on Democrats. The Department of Homeland Security wants the authority to detain families for longer and more quickly deport children from Central America who arrive at the border on their own.

The department argues those policy changes would stop families from trying to enter the U.S.

Alejandra Mier y Teran, executive director of the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce in San Diego, said the mere threat of border closures sends the wrong message to businesses in Mexico and may eventually scare companies into turning to Asia for their supply chains.

"I think the impact would be absolutely devastating on so many fronts," said Mier y Teran, whose members rely on the Otay Mesa crossing to bring televisions, medical devices and a wide range of products to the



President Donald Trump walks with, from left, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., during a visit to Lake Okeechobee and Herbert Hoover Dike at Canal Point, Fla., Friday, March 29, 2019.

Associated Press

U.S. "In terms of a long-term effect, it's basically shooting yourself in your foot. It's

sending out a message to other countries that, 'Don't come because our borders

may not work at any time.' That is extremely scary and dangerous." □

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In this March 22, 2019, file photo, Attorney General William Barr leaves his home in McLean, Va. Barr told Congress on March 29, to expect version of special counsel's Russia report by mid-April.

Associated Press

Redacted Mueller report expected to be released by mid-April

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A redacted version of special counsel Robert Mueller's report on the Russia investigation will be sent to Congress by mid-April and will not be shared with the White House beforehand, Attorney General William Barr said Friday.

Barr's timeline, included in a letter to the chairmen of the House and Senate judi-

cary committees, sets up a possible showdown with House Democrats, who are insisting they see the full report next week.

In his letter, Barr said he shares a desire for Congress and the public to be able to read Mueller's findings, which are included in the nearly 400-page report the special counsel submitted last week.

Barr said President Donald Trump would have the right to assert executive privilege over parts of the report. But he noted that Trump "has stated publicly that he intends to defer to me and, accordingly, there are no plans to submit the report to the White House for a privilege review."

Mueller officially concluded his investigation when he submitted the report last Friday. Two days later, Barr sent a four-page letter to Congress that detailed Mueller's "principal conclusions."

Mueller did not find that the Trump campaign coordinated or conspired with Russia, Barr wrote, and did not reach a conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice. Barr said he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein decided on their own that Mueller's evidence was insufficient to establish that the president committed obstruction.

Barr said he is preparing to redact multiple categories of information from the report and Mueller is helping the Justice Department identify sections that will be

blacked out in the public version.

Those include grand jury material, information that would compromise sensitive sources and methods; information that could affect ongoing investigations, including those referred by Mueller's office to other Justice Department offices and information that could infringe on the personal privacy and reputation of "peripheral third parties."

"Our progress is such that I anticipate we will be in a position to release the report by mid-April, if not sooner," Barr wrote.

Barr said last week's letter detailing Mueller's "principal conclusions" was not intended to be an "exhaustive recounting" of the special counsel's investigation. Barr described Mueller's report as nearly 400 pages long, not including the tables and supporting materials, which he said sets forth Mueller's analysis, findings and the reasons for his conclusions.

"Everyone will soon be able to read it on their own," Barr wrote. "I do not believe it would be in the public's interest for me to attempt to summarize the full report or to release it in serial or piecemeal fashion."

Asked about Barr's commitment to release a redacted version of Mueller's report, Trump said he has "a lot of confidence" in Barr "and if that's what he'd like to do, I have nothing to hide." He spoke at Mar-a-Lago, his private estate in Florida. □

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Autopsy: Migrant child who died in U.S. custody had infection

By NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A 7-year-old girl from Guatemala died of a bacterial infection while detained by the U.S. Border Patrol, according to an autopsy released Friday, in a case that drew worldwide attention to the plight of migrant families at the southern U.S. border.

Jakelin Caal Maquin died Dec. 8, just over a day after she was apprehended by Border Patrol agents with her father after entering the U.S. illegally. Jakelin was one of two children to die in Border Patrol custody in December, raising questions about the agency's ability to care for families.

The report from the medical examiner in El Paso, Texas, says traces of streptococcus bacteria were found in Jakelin's lungs, adrenal gland, liver, and spleen. The autopsy says she faced a "rapidly progressive infection" that led to sepsis and the failure of multiple organs.

The medical examiner did not determine which form of streptococcus bacteria Jakelin contracted.

"It's a death that could have been preventable," said Dr. Colleen Kraft, a past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics who spoke to The Associated Press after reviewing the report.

Kraft said the type of infection Jakelin had would have likely caused initial symptoms that a medical professional would have caught, like an elevated heartbeat, respiratory rate, or problems with blood circulation.

"She should have been taken to the hospital right away," Kraft said, adding that "you had somebody who didn't know to look for those subtle signs that her

little system was shutting down."

Dr. Matthew Gartland, a pediatrician and member of the advocacy group Physicians for Human Rights, said that while it was difficult to determine whether more rapid treatment would have saved Jakelin's life, "what we can say is immigrant children should receive timely care, including emergency care, by pediatricians."

Jakelin was not hospitalized until 12 hours after she and her father were apprehended, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

CBP said Jakelin and her father, Nery Gilberto Caal Cuz, were in a group of 163 migrants who were apprehended at about 9:15 p.m. Dec. 6 in a remote part of New Mexico. The father signed an English-language form stating Jakelin was in good health, CBP said, but it remains unclear whether he understood what the form said.

Jakelin and her father boarded a bus at about 4:30 a.m. Dec. 7 from the Antelope Wells port of entry for the Lordsburg station. According to a CBP statement, Jakelin's father reported just before the bus left at 5 a.m. that she was vomiting.

The bus arrived in Lordsburg about 90 minutes later, CBP said. By then, Jakelin's temperature had reached 105.7 degrees Fahrenheit (40.9 degrees Celsius). An emergency medical technician had to revive her. She was flown to a hospital in El Paso, where she died the next day.

CBP says large groups of migrants are increasingly heading to remote areas of the border such as rural New Mexico, where it has very limited facilities or staff

to apprehend and care for them. The agency expanded medical screenings for all children after the death of a second child, Felipe Gomez Alonso.

The Border Patrol said this week that it would release families immediately instead of referring them to processing, a step the agency said was necessary to relieve overcrowding in its facilities.

CBP declined Friday to comment on the autopsy report. Commissioner Kevin McAleenan previously said in a statement that the agents who were involved "are deeply affected and empathize with the father over the loss of his daughter."

"We cannot stress enough the dangers posed by traveling long distances,



In this Dec. 15, 2018, file photo, Annunciation House director Ruben Garcia answers questions from the media after reading a statement from the family of Jakelin Caal Maquin, pictured at left, during a press briefing at Casa Vides in downtown El Paso, Texas.

Associated Press

in crowded transportation, or in the natural elements through remote desert areas without food, water and other supplies," McAleenan said. □



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Poll: Most see women equal to men in politics



In this Feb. 5, 2019 file photo, women members of Congress cheer after President Donald Trump acknowledges more women in Congress during his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

By LAURIE KELLMAN and HANNAH FINGERHUT

WASHINGTON (AP) — An all-time high of 84 percent of Americans believe women are just as suited emotionally for politics as men, according to a new survey that comes as the largest-ever field of women are running for president and with a record number serving in Congress.

The growing acceptance of women in politics and in the workforce is highlighted by the General Social Survey, a widely respected trend survey that has been measuring views of gender and society since the 1970s. A quarter of Americans think it's better for men to work and for women to stay at home, the lowest level since the question was first asked in 1985. Roughly as many — 28 percent — say preschool children suffer with a working mother; 53 percent said the same in 1985.

An analysis by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and General Social Survey

staff finds these attitudes extend broadly across demographic groups, including gender and partisanship, though there are still some small gaps.

Nearly a century after the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote, the growing public role of women in the U.S. has produced major changes in politics, culture and policy. The #MeToo movement against sexual misconduct helped propel a record number of women onto the campaign trail in 2018. Now, the House is anchored by the most women ever to serve at once, with Nancy Pelosi the only woman to have held the post of speaker.

The share of Americans who say women are as suited for politics as men is up 6 percentage points since 2016, when Hillary Clinton became the first woman to win a major party's presidential nomination, and 14 points since 2008, when she lost a grueling primary battle to Barack Obama. In 1974, just 49 percent said

so.

Men and women alike consider women equally suited for politics, as do majorities across party lines. Democrats are somewhat more likely than Republicans to say so, 89 percent to 80 percent, though the share in both parties has grown in recent years.

A record six women — all Democrats — are running for president in 2020. The crowded campaign trail means women are talking about a variety of issues and taking an array of positions, offering voters a chance to size them up on more than just their gender. Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., is highlighting her experience as a prosecutor. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is emphasizing economic issues, including consumer protection.

The trend toward more women in politics is energizing policy discussions in the polarized country, with national attention on issues surrounding #MeToo and discrimination in the workplace, along with

paid family leave and child care.

The survey found 9 percent of women saying they have been discriminated against at work because of their gender. Among college-educated women, that figure stands at 13 percent. While Americans largely support women entering the workforce, a minority — 36 percent — support preferential hiring for women.

There has been a consistent partisan gap in views on this over time, but it has grown during the last two years. The share of Democrats who support preferential hiring for women is up to 46 percent, from 35 percent in 2016. A quarter of Republicans are in favor of affirmative action for women in the workforce.

Within the GOP, a gender gap persists on attitudes toward women in the workforce. Republican men are more likely than Republican women to say it is better for women to stay at home while men work, 37 percent to 22 percent. Similarly, while 18 percent

of Republican women think preschool children suffer if their mother works, 39 percent of Republican men say this.

Health care, the top-of-mind issue for voters in the 2018 midterm elections, has again proven to be a political battleground ahead of the 2020 presidential election. The president this week, apparently recognizing the issue's importance for voters, directed Republicans to "try again" to dismantle President Barack Obama's signature health care law while the administration fights it in court. With no Democratic candidate emerging soon in the nomination fight, Pelosi has struggled to keep her rank and file focused on the issues rather than investigations of Trump.

On the contentious issue of abortion, attitudes have grown even more partisan. Overall, Americans are divided on whether a woman should be able to have an abortion "if she wants one for any reason." Forty-nine percent are in favor, which has been inching up over the last decade. Other polling finds majority support for legalized abortion in "all or most cases."

The share of Democrats saying a woman should be allowed to have an abortion for any reason is at its highest level, 64 percent. About a third of Republicans (35 percent) say the same.

— The General Social Survey has been conducted since 1972 by NORC at the University of Chicago, primarily using in-person interviewing. Sample sizes for each year's survey vary from about 1,500 to about 3,000 adults, with margins of error falling between plus or minus 2.2 percentage points and plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

The most recent survey was conducted April 12 through Nov. 10, 2018, and includes interviews with 2,348 American adults. Results for the full sample have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. □



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Ban on plastic bags comes close to reality in a 3rd state

By CHRIS CAROLA and DAVID KLEPPER

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Gov. Andrew Cuomo and fellow Democrats who control the Legislature have reached a deal to make New York the third state with a ban on single-use plastic grocery bags as they worked to finalize budget agreements, officials said Friday. The ban would prohibit grocery stores from providing plastic bags for most purchases, something California has been doing since a statewide ban was approved in 2016. Hawaii has an effective statewide ban, with all its counties imposing their own restrictions. Supporters of such bans say they keep plastic bags from entering the environment and causing damage to ecosystems and waterways.

"With this smart, multi-pronged action New York will be leading the way to protect our natural resourc-

es now and for future generations of New Yorkers," Cuomo, who proposed a ban in his \$175 billion budget proposal, said in a statement Friday.

New York's ban wouldn't take effect until next March. The plan also calls for allowing local governments the option to impose a 5-cent fee on paper bags, with 3 cents going to the state's Environmental Protection Fund and 2 cents kept by local governments.

Environmental conservation advocates had also been pushing for a statewide fee for paper bags as a way to encourage wider consumer use of reusable bags.

Nonetheless, Patrick McClellan, state policy director for the New York League of Conservation Voters, said his group was "thrilled" that the bag ban appears headed for passage.

"Plastic bags pollute our waterways and streets,

and both plastic and paper bags contribute to the solid waste crisis and cost taxpayers money," he said. "While the best policy would be a ban on plastic bags coupled with a statewide fee on other disposable bags, this agreement represents a tremendous step forward."

Lawmakers are facing a Monday deadline on a budget agreement. Negotiations on other aspects of Cuomo's proposed \$175 billion spending plan are continuing Friday, with the Senate and Assembly expected to start passing budget bills Sunday ahead of the April 1 start of the state's 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Lawmakers have also agreed on a measure that would close up to three yet-to-be-determined state prisons. Cuomo announced last month he wanted to reduce the number of facilities because of the state's declining inmate



Plastic bags are seen stuck to the branches of a tree in the East Village neighborhood of Manhattan, Wednesday, March 27, 2019.

Associated Press

population.

The budget will also contain a provision requiring employers to give workers three hours off to vote on election day.

Another provision set for the budget would impose congestion tolls to ease traffic in the busiest parts of Manhattan and fund transit improvements, but details are still being discussed.

Negotiations are also continuing on a proposal to tax luxury second homes in Manhattan worth more than \$5 million. The option now being considered

would impose a one-time tax paid when the properties are sold, Cuomo told reporters Friday.

Revenue from the tax would go to transit.

Other pending issues still being negotiated included criminal justice reform and public financing of political campaigns.

One of the other big issues of the year — the legalization of recreational marijuana — will not be included in the budget. Cuomo said Friday that lawmakers need more time to work out the details to regulation. □

5th member of Jewish sect charged in new kidnapping plot

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal authorities this week arrested another member of an extremist Jewish sect in what the FBI called a new plot to abduct two New York children who recently fled the ultra-Orthodox group.

Matityau Moshe Malka appeared in federal court in White Plains, New York, on Tuesday on kidnapping and obstruction of justice charges.

The FBI said Malka and other members of Lev Tabor planned to kidnap a

14-year-old girl and her 12-year-old brother three months after they were taken from their mother in upstate New York and later recovered by law enforcement in Mexico.

Authorities said Malka gave several cellphones to the girl so she could speak with members of the Guatemala-based sect, including its leader, who is not named in the criminal complaint.

The group's leader recently vowed to fight the mother of the children "until the last drop of blood," the docu-

ment says, and "indicated that there are people in New York prepared to execute" another kidnapping. A message seeking comment was sent to Malka's defense attorney.

Authorities charged four other members of Lev Tabor in December with abducting the same boy and girl and taking them out of the country. The children eventually were found in the Mexican town of Tenango del Aire and reunited with their mother in New York. □



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UK faces new Brexit crisis after lawmakers reject May's deal

By JILL LAWLESS

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British lawmakers on Friday rejected the government's Brexit deal for a third time, leaving the U.K. facing the stark prospect of a chaotic departure from the European Union in just two weeks, with political leaders in turmoil and the country ill-prepared for the shock.

It's either that, or a long delay to the country's exit from the EU. The alternatives are dwindling.

The House of Commons voted 286-344 against the withdrawal agreement struck between Prime Minister Theresa May and the EU, rebuffing her plea to "put aside self and party" and deliver the Brexit that Britons voted for.

Amid business warnings that a no-deal Brexit could mean crippling tariffs, border gridlock and shortages of goods, a visibly frustrated May said the vote had "grave" implications.

"The legal default now is that the United Kingdom is due to leave the European Union on 12 April — in just 14 days' time," she said. "This is not enough time to agree, legislate for and ratify a deal, and yet the House has been clear it will not permit leaving without a deal. And so we will have to agree an alternative way forward."

Had the deal been passed, Britain would have left the EU on May 22.

The bloc said the rejection of the divorce terms made a no-deal Brexit "a likely scenario" and called an emergency summit of EU leaders for April 10 to decide what to do next.

An EU Commission official said the 27 remaining EU nations were "fully prepared for a no-deal scenario at midnight 12th of April."

Almost three years after Britain voted in June 2016 to leave the EU, and two years after it set its departure date for March 29, 2019, British politicians remain deadlocked over Brexit. Like the country as a whole, they are split be-



A Pro-Brexit leave the European Union supporter waves flags in Parliament Square at the end of the final leg of the "March to Leave" in London, Friday, March 29, 2019.

Associated Press

tween those who want a clean break, those who want to retain close ties with the bloc, and those who want to overturn the decision to leave.

Last week, to prevent Britain from crashing out, the EU granted an extension to May 22 if the divorce deal was approved by Friday — or to April 12 if it was rejected.

Friday's 58-vote margin of defeat for the deal was narrower than previous votes in January and March, but it still left the government's blueprint for exiting the bloc in tatters.

May's deal was voted down even after the prime minister sacrificed her job in exchange for Brexit, promising to quit if lawmakers approved the agreement. With the deal's rejection, she will face pressure to step aside and let a new Conservative Party leader take over negotiations with the EU.

The government had also warned pro-Brexit politicians that rejecting May's deal could see Britain's departure from the EU delayed indefinitely.

May's arguments moved some previously resistant Brexit-backers to support

the deal. Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson — a likely contender to replace May as Conservative leader — tweeted that rejecting it risked "being forced to accept an even worse version of Brexit or losing Brexit altogether."

But May's key allies, the Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland, refused to back the agreement because it treats Northern Ireland differently from the rest of the U.K.

Parliament voted on the legally binding, 585-page withdrawal agreement that May struck with the EU late last year, setting out the terms of Britain's departure — but not on a shorter declaration on future ties that was also part of the accord between the two sides.

Removing the political declaration altered the deal enough to overcome a parliamentary ban against asking lawmakers the same question over and over again.

May also hoped severing the link between the two parts of the deal would blunt opposition. That gamble failed to pay off, as opposition lawmakers said if amounted to voting for a

"blind Brexit" with no idea what would happen next. Opposition lawmakers declared May's deal as good as dead. Labour Party legislator Ian Murray likened it to the dead parrot in a Monty Python comedy sketch.

"Her deal is no more," he said. "It has ceased to exist. It is bereft of life. It rests in peace. It's a deal that has been nailed to its perch. It's an ex-parrot, it is an ex-deal."

Lawmakers who favor a "soft Brexit" plan to hold votes Monday in an attempt to find a deal with majority support that can break the deadlock.

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said Parliament had a "responsibility to find a majority for a better deal for all the people of this country."

Business groups, who have been sounding the alarm for months about the damage a no-deal Brexit could do, urged lawmakers to avert disaster.

"All eyes are now on Monday to discover what Parliament is for," said Josh Hardie, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry. "The U.K.'s reputation, people's jobs and livelihoods are at stake. No-

deal is two weeks away." If lawmakers back a new proposal, Britain would need to seek a new delay to Brexit from the bloc to implement it.

The EU has indicated it could grant an extension of up to a year if the U.K. plans to change course and tack toward a softer departure. That would, however, require Britain to participate in elections for the European Parliament in late May — something both the bloc and the British government have sought to avoid.

The political morass has left Britons on both sides of the debate frustrated and angry. Thousands of Brexit supporters, who had planned to be celebrating Friday, were protesting instead. They converged on Parliament Square as lawmakers voted inside, waving Union Jack flags, singing "Bye-Bye EU" and lamenting the government's failure to take Britain out of the bloc on schedule.

"The people are supposed to be the masters and them inside (Parliament) are meant to do what we tell them," said Charlotte Clifford from Eastbourne in southern England. "It's democracy."

The main "Leave Means Leave" protest outside Parliament was attended by senior Brexiteers including former U.K. Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, who called Friday a "day of betrayal."

In a separate rally up the street, far-right agitator Tommy Robinson roused supporters with a speech attacking politicians and the media.

Retired charity worker Mandi Childs, one of a band of Brexit supporters walking across England to join the "Leave Means Leave" protest, said she felt "heartbroken." "We were told over a 100 times by a British prime minister that we would be leaving on the 29th of March, 2019," she said.

"To do that, promise the British people that and then say 'Actually, no, we need to just put it back' — absolute betrayal. And how dare she?" □



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'I want snow for Christmas:' Students demand climate action

BERLIN (AP) — Thousands of students skipped school in Berlin Friday as part of a growing worldwide youth movement demanding faster action against climate change.

Carrying signs with slogans such as "I want snow for Christmas" and "The climate is changing, why aren't we?", the demonstrators gathered in a park near the capital's main train station before marching through the government district.

Police estimated the size of the crowd at more than 20,000.

Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg, who inspired the protests in Germany and elsewhere by staging weekly "school strikes," headlined the demonstration, joining others at the rally shouting: "What do we want? Climate justice. When do we want it? Now!" Later, taking the stage in front of the landmark Brandenburg Gate, the 16-year-old told the animated



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg attends the 'Friday For Future' rally in Berlin, Germany, Friday, March 29, 2019.

Associated Press

crowd that "older generations have failed tackling the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced."

"When we say to them we are worried about the future of our civilization, they

just pat us on our heads and say everything will be fine, don't worry," she said. "But we should worry — we should panic — and by panic I don't mean running around screaming; by pan-

ic I mean stepping out of our comfort zones because when you're in a crisis you change your behavior." The crowd applauded wildly and chanted "Greta, Greta" as she wrapped up

her short speech and left the stage. Thunberg later met with scientists at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, just outside the German capital.

Some 26,000 scientists in German-speaking countries have signed a call in support of the protesting students in recent weeks.

"The young people are right to say that this is about intergenerational justice," said the Potsdam Institute's director, Johan Rockstrom. "Science clearly shows that climate action today, or the lack thereof, defines the world our children and grandchildren will have to live in."

The Berlin rally was one of more than 20 being held around the country.

Protester Gabriele Konradi brought her 7-year-old daughter Valerie to the protest and they were part of a group holding signs like "change the system, not the climate." □

Amid gripes, Louvre pyramid celebrates 30 years with collage

By THOMAS ADAMSON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — In a feat of optical illusion, French street artist JR completed a collage Friday that plunges the Louvre's pyramid into a vast chasm to mark the famed glass structure's 30-year anniversary.

The temporary ground collage made of paper strips, when viewed from above, gives the famed 21-meter-high (nearly 70-foot-high) structure dizzying added depth, and is the second

time JR has worked his art around Paris' most visited museum after making it "disappear" in 2016 with a black and white photo trick.

It had Louvre President Jean-Luc Martinez enthused.

"It magnifies this iconic monument... I was immediately seduced," he said. But instead of transporting attendees at Friday's opening to an imagined landscape, it seemed to leave many very unseduced

amid complaints they couldn't see any optical illusion from the ground at all. Some even accused the art of elitism, saying they were disappointed that the only way to appreciate the installation was to get a special VIP pass to view it from a balcony.

The Louvre defended the choice by saying an aerial view of the work would be projected to the public by two plasma screens in the courtyard. Officials, including French Culture Minister

Franck Riester, feted the anniversary in a conference inside the museum Friday evening.

The Louvre's pyramid, designed by Chinese-American architect I. M. Pei and inaugurated on March 29, 1989, has often been the target of complaints or controversy.

The monument was initially likened to "sacrilege" as some thought the modernist edifice was at odds with the classic Renaissance style of Paris' most prized

palace. The Guangzhou-born architect was also accused of being insufficiently French by some in the media.

But with the passage of time, the uncommonly-shaped lattice structure has won its detractors — and tourists — over.

Chinese engineer Yuan Chen, 30, brushed off criticism that a China-born architect shouldn't have designed Paris' second most recognizable peak. □

Upstart liberal vs establishment in Slovak president vote

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP)

— An upstart liberal candidate is facing a career diplomat and establishment figure in a presidential runoff Saturday that could give Slovakia its first female head of state.

Zuzana Caputova, an environmental activist, is up against European Commission vice-president Maros Sefcovic in the vote for the largely ceremonial post in the nation of 5.4 million.

The winner will become the country's fifth head of state since Slovakia gained independence in 1993 after Czechoslovakia split in two. Incumbent Andrej Kiska did not stand for a second term and is backing Caputova.

WHY THE RUNOFF?

None of the 13 candidates won a majority in the March 16 first round, so the two top vote-getters ad-



In this file picture taken on Saturday, March 16, 2019, Presidential candidate Zuzana Caputova answers questions to media as she arrives at her election headquarters to watch the results of the first round of the presidential election in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Associated Press

vanced to the runoff. Caputova took 40.6 percent of the first vote, with Sefcovic a distant second with

18.7 percent. Their success prevented any far right or populist candidate advancing, but in a warning

for the future, pro-Russian candidate Stefan Harabin and neo-Nazi party chairman Marian Kotleba fin-

ished third and fourth, respectively, together taking 25 percent of the vote.

ZUZANA CAPUTOVA

Caputova, a 45-year-old lawyer, is a rising star of Slovak politics. She became known for leading a successful fight against a toxic waste dump in her home town of Pezinok, near the capital, Bratislava, for which she received an international environmental prize in 2016. A divorced mother of two who is in favor of gay rights and opposes a ban on abortion in this conservative Roman Catholic country, she attracts those who are appalled by corruption and mainstream politics. She was also part of a campaign in 2017 that led to the annulment of pardons granted by former authoritarian Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar. □

Egyptian pro-democracy activist free after 5 years in prison

By MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A leading Egyptian pro-democracy activist was freed from prison early Friday after serving a five-year sentence for inciting and taking part in protests, his family and lawyer said. The terms of his release, however, require that he report to a police station every day for the next five years.

Alaa Abdel-Fattah rose to prominence with the 2011 Arab Spring uprisings that swept the Middle East and in Egypt, toppled long-time President Hosni Mubarak.

To many, his imprisonment three years later — at a time when authorities imposed draconian laws banning public gatherings and unauthorized demonstrations — was another sign of Egypt's return to autocratic rule.

Abdel-Fattah's sisters, Mona and Sanaa Seif, posted on Facebook that "Alaa is out," along with a video of him at home, playing with a dog. His lawyer, Khaled Ali, confirmed the release by posting: "Thanks God, Alaa Abdel-Fattah at home."

Facebook pages set up in

support of Abdel-Fattah, including "Free Alaa," posted videos for him grinning, hugging and shaking hands with friends as he walked out of a police station in Cairo. In the background, women were ululating. Though out of prison, Abdel-Fattah's sentence stipulates that for the next five years he will be under "police observation" and has to report to a police station every day. In some cases, released convicts only sign a logbook and then leave the police station but in others, measures are harsher.

Photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zaid, popularly known as "Shawkan," who was released earlier this month also after a five-year term, has to spend the nights at the police station for the next five years. He is also prohibited from managing his financial assets and property for the duration of those five years — measures that Amnesty International has called "outrageous."

It's unclear to what extent that part of Abdel-Fattah's sentence will be carried out.



In this Aug. 28, 2014 file photo, surrounded by plainclothes policemen, Egyptian prominent blogger Alaa Abdel-Fattah waves to the crowd after attending the funeral of his father, Ahmed Seif, in Cairo, Egypt.

Associated Press

An outspoken dissident, Abdel-Fattah was detained several times before under different governments for lobbying for civil rights on

social media and in public. An influential blogger, he hails from a family of political activists, lawyers, and writers. His late father was

one of Egypt's most tireless rights lawyers, his sisters are also political activists and his aunt is award-winning novelist Ahdaf Soueif.

But Abdel-Fattah's five-year sentence was his longest prison term. He was convicted for taking part in a peaceful demonstration following the military's ouster in July 2013 of Egypt's freely elected but controversial Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

After Morsi's ouster, Egypt's military-backed transitional authorities waged a heavy crackdown on his supporters who had rallied against his ouster, including a sit-in by Islamists in Cairo that was broken up by security forces in an operation that left hundreds dead.

Within weeks, the government also went after secular and liberal activists who opposed a newly introduced law banning street protests without prior permission from authorities.

The new law required participants to formally ask the Interior Ministry three days in advance whether they can hold a rally while also setting prison terms and high fines for violators. □

Mozambique cholera cases jump to 139 a day after outbreak

By CARA ANNA

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Cholera cases in Mozambique among survivors of a devastating cyclone have shot up to 139, officials said, as nearly 1 million vaccine doses were rushed to the region and health workers desperately tried to improvise treatment space for victims.

Cholera causes acute diarrhea, is spread by contaminated food and water and can kill within hours if not treated. The disease is a major concern for the hundreds of thousands of cyclone survivors in the southern African nation now living in squalid conditions in camps, schools or damaged homes.

The Portuguese news agency Lusa quoted Mozambique national health official Ussein Isse for the new toll. Isse declared the outbreak on Wednesday with just five confirmed cases.

Far more cholera cases already were feared. The medical charity Doctors Without Borders told The Associated Press it is seeing around 200 likely cholera cases a day in the Indian Ocean port city of Beira alone. The city of some 500,000 people is the hub of cyclone relief efforts.



Community members assist a doctor carrying boxes with medical supplies as he runs towards the South African Defence Forces helicopter after assisting a community affected by a cyclone near Beira, Mozambique, Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Associated Press

The World Health Organization has warned of a "second disaster" if water-borne diseases like cholera spread in the impoverished nation. It said 900,000 oral cholera vaccines were expected to arrive Monday and a vaccination campaign will begin late next week.

WHO also has opened seven treatment centers with a total of 400 beds, includ-

ing 100 in Beira. "We assume that there are lots of people who will get sick and we want to get prepared," spokesman Tarik Jasarevic told reporters in Geneva.

Health workers are treating every case of diarrhea as though it were cholera, Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, the deputy U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Mozambique, told reporters. While

cholera is endemic to the region, "when it does break out, it breaks out fast and it travels extremely fast," he said, stressing the need to strengthen disease surveillance.

Cyclone Idai, which stuck March 14, destroyed more than 50 health care clinics in central Mozambique, complicating the work to contain the disease, Radio Mozambique cited disaster

management official Rui Costa as saying.

It is not yet clear whether any cholera deaths have been confirmed.

"We're not going to test every single case (for cholera) because it's not difficult to recognize when you look at the diarrhea of a patient. Once you see it once, you always recognize it," Gert Verdonck, Doctors Without Borders' emergency coordinator for Beira, told the AP.

Other suspected cholera cases are outside Beira in the badly hit areas of Buzi, Tica and Nhamathanda, he said, but the chance of spreading in rural areas is smaller because people are more dispersed.

In urban areas, however, cholera "can have a huge impact if not contained quickly," Verdonck said. He said the 900,000 vaccine doses should be enough to cover targeted areas but that a second dose should be given after two weeks to strengthen protection.

The speed of the outbreak came as a surprise, he said. Earlier this week workers found 40 to 50 people with acute diarrhea at a health center in Munhava, one of Beira's poorest neighborhoods. □

Thai Election Commission blames software for counting errors

By KAWEEWIT KAEWJINDA

Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's Election Commission, facing widespread criticism for inconsistent and delayed vote totals from last Sunday's general election, said Friday that computer software was partly to blame.

During early reporting of the election results, its tabulation software had trouble handling data entered simultaneously from several points and sometimes displayed incorrect numbers, the commission said in a statement.

On Thursday it issued a 208-page compilation of votes in every constituency in response to criticism, but some tallies still failed to add up correctly.

Poll-watching organizations and opposition parties have criticized the commission for lack of transparency. Several political activists said Friday they are starting a petition campaign to impeach the election commissioners.

The commission's figures show the party supporting the current military junta had the most popular votes, trailed by its main challenger, the party ousted by the military in a 2014 coup.

The military-backed Palang Pracharath Party supports Prayuth Chan-ocha, who as army commander led the 2014 coup and has since served as prime minister and junta chief, to continue as the country's leader.

The main challenger is the Pheu Thai Party, associated with former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a 2006 coup. Pheu Thai's candidate for prime minister is Sudarat Keyuraphan, who has charged there were irregularities in Sunday's vote. On her Facebook page on Friday, she described alleged tampering with ballots.

Pheu Thai announced on Wednesday that it had assembled a coalition of parties that would hold a majority of seats in the House of Representatives. But because an appointed Senate also votes to pick the new prime minister, a majority in the lower house alone would not put them in power. The Senate's members are indirectly ap-



In this Sunday, March 24, 2019, a officer counts ballots in the general election after closing a polling station in Bangkok, Thailand.

Associated Press

pointed by the current ruling junta, and are virtually certain to back Prayuth for prime minister.

Disqualifications and other rulings by the Election

Commission ahead of May 9, when it is supposed to formalize the election results, may also affect how the new government is formed. □

Homelessness rises in Argentina's capital amid crisis

By DEBORA REY

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — A smiling two-year-old Valentina Aleman runs down a sidewalk in Buenos Aires, dodging cardboard boxes, a worn-out sofa and a broken refrigerator without noticing the cars zooming dangerously close to her and others — risks of living on the streets.

A makeshift tent of cardboard and plastic bags on the side of a busy avenue in the Argentine capital serves as shelter for the girl, her four siblings and her parents, who sleep sharing two old mattresses laid out on the concrete.

"Being here with (the children) is not nice. The main risk is their health," Valentina's mother, Damiana, said while the kids played with used toys. "They want to watch TV. My oldest asks why we can't be at home with our TV and our bed."

Families living on the streets outside shopping malls, bus stations and parks have become an increasingly common sight in Buenos Aires, as an economic crisis, soaring inflation and a spike in utility bills fueled by austerity measures have left more people unable to afford a home. The long-running crisis sharpened in 2018 when the Argentine peso lost about half its value following a run on the currency.

The number of people in extreme poverty in Argentina's capital - the country's wealthiest area - has doubled in the past three years to 6.5 percent, or about 198,000 people, according to official figures. The Buenos Aires city government has yet to release homeless numbers for the end of 2018, but local civic groups estimate the figure at around 8,000 people.

Argentines continue to lose purchasing power to an inflation rate that reached 47.6 percent last year, the highest since 1991, and many are frustrated with the decision by President Mauricio Macri's government to slash subsidies on utilities and public transportation. On average, in the past year natural gas has shot up 77.6 percent, elec-



In this Feb. 25, 2019 photo, Damiana Aleman holds her daughter Valentina in front of their makeshift tent on a sidewalk in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Associated Press

tricity by 46 percent and water by 26 percent. Eight months ago, the Aleman family became unable to keep up with soaring utilities costs. The family paid about \$112 per month in rent. Their finances collapsed when they received a \$246 electricity bill. Then Valentina's father, Emilio, lost his job in a furniture factory that shut down amid the crisis.

"Seven out of every 10 families see the cost of utilities as a problem for their domestic finances," said Matias Barroetavena, director of the Center of Metropolitan Studies, a Buenos Aires-based research center. Reducing poverty is still on the to-do list for Macri, who has entered the last year of his presidential term and has launched a re-election bid for October's voting. When Macri took office in 2015, he said his administration should be judged by its ability to reduce poverty. "Zero poverty" became one of his top goals. But poverty in Argentina increased to 32 percent of the population in the sec-

ond half of 2018 from 27.3 percent in the first half, the INDEC official statistics agency said on Thursday. "I trusted him when he said 'zero poverty'. It looked like he would stand by the poor," Aleman said. "But Macri actually meant getting rid of the poor, rather than improving the economy."

Following last year's devaluation of the peso, Argentina was forced to seek a record financing deal with the International Monetary Fund. The decision brought back bad memories for Argentines who blame the IMF for introducing policies that led to the country's worst crisis in 2001 when one in every five Argentines went unemployed and millions slid into poverty.

Macri says he underestimated the macroeconomic imbalances inherited from his populist predecessor, center-left President Cristina Fernandez. He argues that correcting them became more difficult when Argentina's worst drought in decades deprived his government

of much-needed farm export revenue. Argentina's economy was also hit by "external factors," including the U.S.-China trade war, he said.

Macri has seen his popularity ratings plunge. Fernandez is tied with him in most polls even though she faces numerous investigations into alleged corruption during her 2007-2015 administration.

A poll conducted in Buenos Aires and its suburbs showed that 65 percent of respondents said their income was not enough to make ends meet. Fifty-two percent said they had reduced their food consumption as a result. The Center of Metropolitan Studies surveyed 1,523 people between Feb. 26 and March 2 in a poll that had a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points.

Shelters in Buenos Aires are at full capacity. But since most are divided by gender, families often prefer staying on the streets to splitting up.

And it's not only the homeless demanding beds in

shelters. Residents from the suburbs are increasingly choosing to stay in the city from Monday to Friday to avoid spending on public transportation. Workers who earn the minimum wage of about \$280 a month are estimated to spend 10 percent of their salaries on public transportation, according to estimates from the Buenos Aires Ombudsman's office.

The Alemans now rely on the money that Emilio gets gathering cardboard and recyclable waste, meals at soup kitchens and on the generosity of nearby residents. Not all empathize, however. Some have called the police to remove them from the sidewalk.

"When people live on the streets, they feel like they're a waste of space, like they deserve to be there. Your opinion of yourself is so low," said Horacio Avila, a social psychologist who co-founded Project 7, which provides assistance to the homeless. Avila himself was homeless for over 10 years.

Leaning out of an igloo-looking structure made out of layers of cloth and plastic tethered to a supermarket car, Hector Garcia jokes with passers-by.

"You keep laughing, you will be right next to me soon," he sometimes tells people with a laugh.

Garcia has been living on the street of a middle-class Buenos Aires' neighborhood for four years since losing an administrative job. Nowadays, he survives by repairing home appliances or disassembling them to sell the scraps. He shares the improvised shack with 77-year-old retiree Maria Ortega.

Garcia also believed his living conditions would improve after the change of government.

"The government provides you with the possibility of getting off the streets for five or six months. That's not a solution," the 57-year-old said about government housing subsidies.

"At least I don't get any bills here," Garcia said before ducking back inside his shelter. □

LOCAL



PALM BEACH — In the presence of Governor Alfonso Boekhoudt, former Governor Fredis Refunjol, Minister Andin Bikker, Minister Dangui Oduber, and their respective wives, Sunset Grille at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino had the distinct pleasure of unveiling its Wall of Fame — a picture gallery of island movers and shakers and celebrities.

All Wall of Famers were invited to view their portraits and enjoy dinner in the elegant dining room or on the wrap-around terrace overlooking the Palm Beach tree tops.

Just before the unveiling, businessman Rene Kan shared some of the restaurant's history and reminded the invited guests that from around the millennium, until the resort was recently refurbished by new ownership, the Aruba Growth Fund, walls were hung with caricatures of important locals, anchoring the restaurant in the island's business life and honoring patrons who regularly brought their special guests for dinner.

In that spirit, Kan explained the return of the wall turned into an art project. Rona Coster helped curate and coordinate the project, recruiting the help of a talented Florida caricaturist who also worked for the Miami Herald and the Sun-Sentinel, Florida's largest daily newspaper.

One of the restaurant's most exciting aspects is the return of executive chef Matt

Sunset Grille inaugurates a Wall of Fame

Boland. Chef Matt was the one who led the Sunset Grill to numerous AAA Four Diamond Awards in the 80s and 90s, and is the one entrusted with the task of returning the restaurant to its traditional steakhouse roots.

The Sunset Grille was the go-to place for getting business done and a place for those in the government to dine. "Please don't hesitate to bring your guests and contacts back," Kan said, "a new terrace was added last year, which makes the restaurant with its stunning views one of the nicest outdoor steakhouses in the world!" And with Boland in charge, one can look forward to an impeccable dining experience in a restaurant setting befitting the Wall of Fame personalities.

Kan wrapped up his address stating that in 2015, the Aruba Growth Fund bought the property and branded it a Hilton. The following year the resort was remodeled,

and operations really started in January 2017. Today, the company is proud to say that Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino is one of the most successful Hiltons in the world, and has one of the highest occupancy rates in the chain.

Most importantly, the resort in Aruba enjoys one of the highest team member satisfaction scores, thanks to its talented and committed staffers.

From the very beginning, the company's mission was to bring back the rich history of the Grand Dame, Kan stated. It did so with furniture and fixtures inspired by the sixties, with artwork hanging throughout the property, and with the recently renovated grand ballroom named after genius American architect Morris Lapidus. The most recent addition, the brand new Oscar's Market in the lobby named after the late Oscar Henriquez, the Aruban hospitality visionary, is part of

that philosophy. So much of what excites Kan about the Aruba Caribbean is its ability to bridge the past with the future. Arriving at the resort, one gets to see what made Aruba such an enticing island—the beautiful view of the ocean, the food, the celebrities, the stories of Oscar Henriquez, all tied to what it is still doing today: making Aruba the best tourist destination in the world. Guests of the property share in making that vision, a reality.

Not coincidentally, the week of the Wall of Fame unveiling, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino was bestowed with the highest honor by the Hilton International chain, by being named Hotel of the Year for the Americas.

The public is invited to come view the Wall of Fame, and stay for dinner with family members and friends. Sunset Grille is ready to serve you with the best steakhouse experience under the sun! □

The National Archives of Aruba receives a painting of Garibaldi Helder



ORANJESTAD —The National Archives of Aruba had the pleasure and honor of receiving a painting of Garibaldi Cephas Helder (r.i.p.). Garibaldi a wellknown 'icon' during his years from "Rancho"and "Playa" (areas known in Oranjestad).

Garibaldi Helder, better known as "Ba", and was born on September 18, 1861, at his birth he was still a slave. Two years later, on July 1, 1863, when the slavery was abolished in the entire Dutch territory, Garibaldi was one of the youngest slaves who was freed. Garibaldi was born and raised in the neighborhood of "Rancho" in Oranjestad also referred to as "Playa". The author Wim Lampe, describes Garibaldi in his book as a well-known figure in "Playa". Ba Helder was considered as a 'Chief' of Rancho. Ba was also known as a announcer. He went around with a bell in the streets of Oranjestad to announce the auction of the donkeys, which were confiscated by the police and which the owners did not claim back. He was also a mailman, who delivered the mail in Oranjestad. According to Wim Lampe, he was a person who was reliable

and punctual, hereby making sure that the mail was delivered on time to its destiny. The Government paid him a small salary for this work. Ba was also present at the dock when the boats arrived or departed, in this manner he helped out with the transportation of freight etc. on his wheelbarrow.

In other documents from the archives we came across a testimony of mr. Dooi Dañe (r.i.p.) who mentions that during the heavy rain season Ba Helder stood on the side of Rooi 'Stream' Manonchi, on the road from Playa to Santa Cruz, especially to carry the women who needed to cross the stream to get on the other side. Ba Helder was known for his tall posture, and according to the notes of mr. Roy Richardson (r.i.p.) on the donated painting, he had a height of 2.05 meters. From another source it looks like Ba was indeed a tall and strong man, but who was also one of the most appreciated and loved persons in Playa. So much that the dentist mr. Dolfi Oduber (r.i.p.) had a painting of Ba in his house, hereby demonstrating his appreciation for this character. Garibaldi Helder died on

April 9, 1939 almost 80 years ago, when a truck hit him while he was taking a nap 'siesta' on a square in the neighborhood of Rancho, where nowadays the Aruba Trading Company is located in Weststraat.

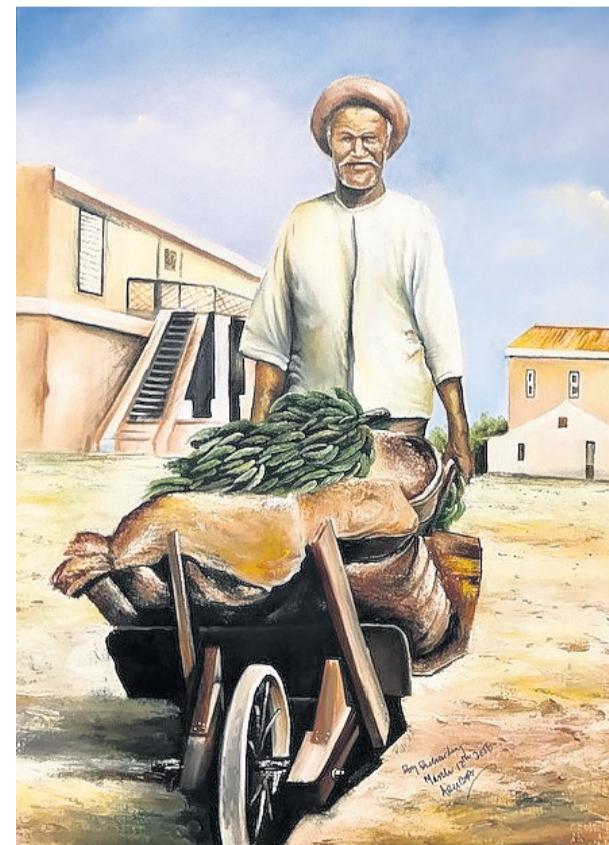
In 2008 during the exhibition "Exposicion Herencia di Sclavitud Aruba" (Exhibition Heritage of the Slaves in Aruba), two paintings of Garibaldi Helder were exhibited. These paintings were inspired by the only known picture of Ba. These paintings were from Roy Richardson, who was a greatgrandson of Garibaldi Helder. His last painting that he painted before he died in 2006, he gave to mrs. Ruby Wilson Lyskowinsky (q.e.p.d.) on the March 12, 2006. Ruby is the daughter of Margot Helder Wilson Kelkboom and also granddaughter of Garibaldi Helder, that lived in United States of America.

This painting that was presented today at the Archivo Nacional Aruba was also in the exhibition in 2008. The painting returned briefly to Aruba to be part of the exhibition and returned back to the United States to Ruby. One of the wishes of Ruby was that after her death the painting return to Aruba and to be gifted to the people of Aruba. Her last wish became a reality on March 25, 2019. Her daughter, mrs. Deabora Reynolds, and the siblings of Ruby, mr. Ronald Wilson y Ronald Kelkboom, gifted this painting to the director of the National Archives of Aruba, mr. Raymond Hernandez.

Mr. Raymond Hernandez, gave the family present a short summary of who Ba Helder was and also acknowledged that this is the second piece of heritage of the Helder family that is given to the National Archives of Aruba. The first one was a 'freedom letter' that belonged to mrs. Anna Stacia Helder (r.i.p) which received her freedom on June 1, 1863 when the slavery was abolished in the Dutch Kingdom. This is the only freedom letter that Aruba has. Anna Stacia Helder was the aunt of Garibaldi Ba Helder and was a little girl of 11 years when she received her freedom from slavery in Aruba. The 'freedom letter' from Anna Stacia Helder is a gift that mrs. Benita Davelaar-Helder gave to the National Archives of Aruba a few years ago. Mrs. Helder inherited this very valuable document from her father Rafael Helder (1911-1997). Rafael Helder inherited this document from his father Nicasio Helder (1879-1967), a nephew from Anna Stacia Helder.

Archivo Nacional Aruba sends a heartfelt thank you in name of the people of Aruba to the family of mrs. Ruby Lyskowinsky for this nice gesture and also to the entire descendants of Garibaldi Ba Helder for their presence during this special moment.

Archivo Nacional Aruba wants to remind everyone that may have any valuable document and or other type of material such as photos etc. that have a relation with our families and or the history of our island that they are more than welcome to give them or atleast make a digital copy of them for their collection. □



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ORANJESTAD— Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a lovely couple as Distinguished Visitors. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were Jack Stokman and Mrs. Corry Oerlemans, from Steenbergen Holland, who have been coming to the island for many years.

The honorees stated that they love coming to the island especially for the lovely and warm-hearted locals.

Boekhoudt together with Estrelle Timpner and staff members of Camacuri Residence presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



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Caribbean Cinemas VIP at Paseo Herencia's Grand Opening



PALM BEACH — Caribbean Cinemas VIP at Paseo Herencia opens its doors soon with six all new stadium seating auditoriums: two with full recliner VIP chairs, individual swivel table tops and four with a combination of traditional high back rockers and VIP. These totally reclinable leather chairs do so with the touch of a button. This new location employed over 50 construction workers and 40 cinema employees.

VIP concept is further defined by the different theater's amenities, service and experience when watching a movie, eating and drinking in a safe, relaxed and comfortable environment. The new theater will have a lounge area, an enhanced menu and service to your seat.

Caribbean Cinemas VIP at Paseo Herencia will introduce the latest in projection technology: laser projection, which provides a more detailed and brighter image, a more

defined color contrast, and 30% savings in energy consumption as compared to Xenon projectors. Caribbean Cinemas, now celebrating its 50th anniversary since its founding in Puerto Rico, has over 60 locations in the Caribbean, Central and South America. In 2011 the company opened its first theater in Aruba, Caribbean Cinemas Megaplex 8 at Palm Beach Plaza, with eight auditoriums including: two VIP and one CXC (Caribbean Cinemas Extreme), their Premium Large Format Auditorium with Dolby Atmos surround system. Also, as part of their Alternative Content programming they present the Bolshoi Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera.

"We see this as an opportunity to provide our customers a good combination of 14 screens between two walking distance locations: Paseo Herencia and Palm Beach Plaza. Our customers will be better served because we can make films programming more versatile, have extended runs of more popular films and more diverse showtimes.

The 14 screens will be the only all stadium theaters in Aruba with un-



interrupted sight lines for enhanced viewing pleasure. We are very excited to incorporate the synergies that the combined operation will bring to our customers". Explained Robert Carrady, President of Caribbean Cinemas.

The first new programming initiative will be to show a Spanish dubbed version of the film Dumbo in one of the screens in all showtimes in addition to the usual original version presentations. Caribbean Cinemas VIP at Paseo Herencia will have shows from 4:00pm on weekdays and 2:00pm on weekends. □

SPORTS



Sports
betting
revenue
projection
was \$11.5M.
So far?
\$150K

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT
PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Casinos in Rhode Island lost nearly \$900,000 on sports betting in February after winning bets for the Super Bowl and other professional sports were paid out, the state lottery said Friday.

Gamblers have placed a total of \$53.5 million in wagers since the late November launch of sports betting in the state, with \$53.2 million paid on winning bets, according to the lottery's figures for bets placed at Twin River Casino in Lincoln and Tiverton. The state gets 51 percent of sports betting profits, after subtracting expenses. That leaves Rhode Island with a profit of about \$150,000. The state had projected it would get \$11.5 million from the new market this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Many football fans went to the casinos in January and early February to bet on the victorious New England Patriots in the Super Bowl. In February alone, gamblers placed about \$20.7 million in wagers and the casinos paid nearly \$21.6 million on winning bets, for a \$900,000 loss.

Other states with legal sportsbooks that launched in the past year didn't bring in as much in February as they had in preceding months. New Jersey's physical sportsbooks had a tax bill of negative \$6,000 for the month, but the online ones brought the state \$1.7 million.

Continued on Page 22

EMBIID, INDEED!



Embiid's big night leads 76ers past Nets 123-110

Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, right, shoots over Brooklyn Nets' Rodions Kurucs, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, March 28, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press
Page 19

Woods' big run sends him to weekend against McIlroy



Tiger Woods responds to the gallery after winning his round-robin match against Patrick Cantlay at the Dell Technologies Match Play Championship golf tournament, Friday, March 29, 2019, in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press

By DOUG FERGUSON

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Tiger Woods sent fans into a frenzy Friday with a sublime stretch of golf that left them wanting more at the Dell Technologies Match Play. And that's what they'll get. Woods won four straight holes with three birdies and an 83-yard lob wedge that spun back into the hole for an eagle, carrying him into the weekend with a 4-and-2 victory over Patrick Cantlay.

"Just got hot right when I needed it," Woods said.

It gets even better: Next up for Woods is Rory McIlroy, the hottest player in golf.

McIlroy won his group by beating Matt Fitzpatrick, 4 and 2. Not only was it McIlroy's third victory in as many matches this week at Austin Country Club, he has never

trailed and has led in 37 of the 42 holes he has played. Woods and McIlroy have never faced with other in match play. The last time they squared off was in the final round last year at the Tour Championship, where Woods capped off his comeback season with a victory.

"I just hope I put up a better fight than I did in Atlanta last year," McIlroy said. "I didn't have much of a game that day. But yeah, look, it's exciting. It's exciting for the tournament. I'm sure it's going to be exciting for us. I feel good about my game. I played well all year. I've continued to do that this week. So it will be exciting."

Henrik Stenson emerged from the group of major champions by beating Jim

Furyk, while Matt Kuchar birdied the last hole to tie Jon Rahm and win his group.

The 16 group winners advance to single elimination Saturday morning.

One match dwarfed them all. Woods hasn't competed in Texas since 2005, and he hasn't been in the Match Play since 2013. He had to beat Cantlay and have Aaron Wise knock off Brandt Snedeker to have any chance of advancing. Cheers of "Go Tiger!" often were followed with "Go Aaron Wise."

Woods gave away holes with a poor flop shot behind the sixth green and a mediocre chip on No. 8 to fall 2 down. Cantlay, whose tee shot on No. 9 took a hard hop and wound up in the ravine, still had a 1-up

lead when it all turned on the par-3 11th.

Woods holed a 20-foot birdie putt to square the match. Then, he made a 7-foot birdie putt to take the lead.

And then it was time for a decision.

The 13th hole played only 276 yards, all over water, a stiff breeze into them. Woods could tell Cantlay was leaning toward driver, and he opted to hit iron off the tee. Cantlay's drive was settled in a knob above the green, 40 feet from the hole for a chance at eagle.

"I knew I needed to put it up there to at least have a chance at 3, to force him to have a good pitch," Woods said.

It worked out to perfection. The ball stopped about 5 feet behind the hole on its

second bounce and gently spun back toward the hole as fans in the double-decker hospitality tent behind the green rose to their feet and let out the loudest cheer of the day when it dropped.

Woods wasn't through. He holed a 20-foot birdie putt on the 14th to go 3 up with four holes to play, and there were delayed cheers from every corporate chalet along the back nine from fans watching on television.

Woods still needed help and says he didn't bother looking at scoreboards to check on the Snedeker match. It was a mismatch. Wise never trailed, was 2 up at the turn and won four of the next five holes to close out Snedeker.

McIlroy, coming off a victory in The Players Championship in his last start, has played so well this year that he has a chance to return to No. 1 in the world if he were to win this World Golf Championship.

He still has to win four matches, starting with a big one Saturday morning.

"We've played tournaments together, battled each other down the stretch at event, but never in a match-play situation," Woods said. "It'll be fun."

Stenson prefers single elimination to group play, one reason he has skipped the Match Play the last three years. Now he's in the knockout stage, facing Lucas Bjerregaard, the Dane who won his group featuring Justin Thomas.

"Nothing I've done these first three days is going to matter when we tee it up tomorrow," Stenson said.

In other matches:

— Marc Leishman easily disposed of Bryson DeChambeau to reach the Round of 16 for the third time in five years.

— Sergio Garcia lost his match to Patrick Reed and still advanced.

— Branden Grace advanced out of the No. 1 group with a 3-0 record, while top seed Dustin Johnson failed to reach the weekend for the second straight time. □

Embiid has 39 points, 13 rebounds to help 76ers beat Nets

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Joel Embiid had 39 points, 13 rebounds and six assists to help the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Brooklyn Nets 123-110 on Thursday night.

JJ Redick added 18 points, and Ben Simmons had 16 points and eight assists. The 76ers snapped a two-game losing streak.

The game matched teams that would've met in the first round of the playoffs had the postseason started Thursday. The 76ers have a strong hold on the No. 3 seed in the East with seven games remaining, and they moved three games ahead of idle Indiana.

Joe Harris scored 22 points and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 19 for Brooklyn.

HEAT 105, MAVERICKS 99

MIAMI (AP) — Goran Dragic had 23 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for his second career triple-double. Dwyane Wade capped the win with a steal and score in the final seconds and Miami beat Dallas to move back into eighth place in the Eastern Conference. Dragic outdueled Luka Doncic in the first head-to-head meeting between the only two Slovenians currently in the NBA, and Miami moved past Orlando for the final playoff spot in the East race.

Doncic scored 19 points for the Mavericks, but missed

12 of his 18 shots.

BUCKS 128, CLIPPERS 118

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points and nine rebounds before leaving with an apparent lower leg injury and Milwaukee ended Los Angeles' winning streak at six games.

Antetokounmpo went to the floor and held his right ankle after dunking with 7:46 left, and he immediately went to the bench and didn't return. He missed two games last week with a sprain to the same ankle.

Khris Middleton had a season-high 39 points with eight rebounds and five assists for Milwaukee. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Clippers with 21 points.

ROCKETS 112, NUGGETS 85

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden scored 38 points and Houston used a 40-point second quarter to rout Denver.

Clint Capela had 13 points and 11 rebounds by half-time and finished with 17 points and 15 rebounds. Jamal Murray had 20 points for Denver. The Nuggets dropped a game behind Golden State for the Western Conference lead with their second loss in three games.

SPURS 116, CAVALIERS 110

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan had 25 points and San Antonio celebrated Manu Ginobili's number

retirement ceremony by beating Cleveland.

Collin Sexton had 24 points for Cleveland, Kevin Love added 18 and the lowly Cavaliers nearly put a damper on the emotional night.

Ginobili became the ninth Spurs player to have his No. 20 retired, joining fellow Big Three teammate Tim Duncan as the most recently honored. The Argentine star spent his entire 16-year NBA career with San Antonio, winning four championships.

PISTONS 115, MAGIC 98

DETROIT (AP) — Wayne Ellington scored 17 of his 25 points in the third quarter and Detroit beat Orlando. Blake Griffin added 20 points and 10 rebounds, Andre Drummond had 18 points and 18 rebounds, and Ish Smith scored 15 points. Aaron Gordon scored 20 points for Orlando.

PELICANS 121, KINGS 118

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Julius Randle capped a 34-point, 11-rebound night with a driving left-handed bank shot between two defenders with 8 seconds left and New Orleans beat Sacramento.

Buddy Hield scored 27 points for the Kings, but his 3-point attempt for the tie in the final seconds rimmed out to New Orleans center Christian Wood, sending the Kings to a loss that put them on the brink of mathematical elimination from playoff contention.

Wood, playing in just his third game for New Orleans since being waived by Milwaukee, had 25 points, nine rebounds and three steals. De'Aaron Fox had 25 points and 12 assists for the Kings.

RAPTORS 117, KNICKS 92

NEW YORK (AP) — Pascal Siakam scored 31 points and Toronto routed New York for the second time in 11 nights. Toronto rested Kawhi Leonard, just as it did in its 128-92 victory at home March 18. Rookie Mitchell Robinson had season highs of 19 points and 21 rebounds for the Knicks. □



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid, center, drives to the basket as Brooklyn Nets' Jared Dudley, right, and Ed Davis, left, defend during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, March 28, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

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Mariners tag Sale and rout defending champion Red Sox 12-4

By TIM BOOTH

SEATTLE (AP) — Tim Beckham hit two of Seattle's three home runs off Boston ace Chris Sale, and the Mariners improved to 3-0 with a victory over the defending World Series champions.

The Mariners followed up their two wins against Oakland last week in Japan by rattling Sale (0-1) and knocking out the lefty that had dominated Seattle in the past. Sale was done after just three innings, while the Mariners were just getting started on their big offensive day.

Beckham did the most damage, hitting a solo homer in the second and following up in the third with a two-run shot. The infielder was hitless in 15 career at-bats with nine strikeouts against Sale before hitting his second and third home runs of the season.

Edwin Encarnacion added a solo shot off Sale as part of a four-run third. Ryon Healy and Domingo Santana both homered against Boston's bullpen as Seattle finished with five long balls. Santana has nine RBIs in three games, the most in team history after the first three games of a season. He had 20 RBIs in 85 games last year with Milwaukee. Marco Gonzales (2-0) was shaky early but pitched into the sixth and allowed three earned runs.

YANKEES 7, ORIOLES 2



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale holds the ball during a mound conference in the third inning of the team's baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Thursday, March 28, 2019, in Seattle. Sale was pulled from the game after the inning.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Luke Voit hit a first-inning homer, Masahiro Tanaka finally got an opening day victory in his fourth try and New York started the season with a win over Baltimore.

Voit launched a three-run drive off Andrew Cashner

(0-1), and Greg Bird added a solo homer in the eighth, the first big flies for the Yankees a year after hitting a record 267 en route to 100 wins. Of course, that wasn't enough to catch the rival Boston Red Sox, who won 108 games and a World Se-

ries championship. Tanaka became the first Japanese pitcher to start four openers, breaking a tie with Hideo Nomo. Tanaka (1-0) allowed two runs, one earned, and six hits over 5 2/3 innings.

Brandon Hyde lost in his

managerial debut with Baltimore.

TIGERS 2, BLUE JAYS 0, 10 INNINGS

TORONTO (AP) — Jordan Zimmermann took a perfect game into the seventh inning, Christian Stewart hit a two-run homer in the 10th and Detroit beat Toronto. Zimmermann, who pitched a no-hitter for Washington on the final day of the 2014 season, came close to bookending it — Hall of Famer Bob Feller threw the only no-hitter on opening day, for Cleveland in 1940. This bid ended when Teoscar Hernandez reached on a two-out infield single. That was the only hit Zimmerman allowed in seven sparkling innings.

Niko Goodrum doubled off Daniel Hudson (0-1) to begin the 10th, and Stewart homered on an 0-2 pitch.

Victor Alcantara (1-0) pitched one inning for the win and Shane Greene finished for a save as Detroit won its opener for the seventh time in eight seasons.

Playing their first game under rookie manager Charlie Montoyo, the Blue Jays lost their eighth consecutive home opener — tying the third-longest streak in baseball history.

In other games it was Kansas City 5, Chicago 3; Minnesota 2, Cleveland 0; Oakland 4, Los Angeles Angels 0; Chicago Cubs 12, Texas 4; and Houston 5, Tampa Bay 1. □



Boston Red Sox's Xander Bogaerts, of Aruba, gets high-fives in the dugout after scoring during the seventh inning of the team's spring training baseball game against the Chicago Cubs on Monday, March 25, 2019, in Mesa, Ariz.

Associated Press

Dominican players top 100, 11.6 percent of big leaguers

NEW YORK (AP) — There were more than 100 Dominican players in the major leagues on opening day, the first time a nation outside the U.S. reached the century mark.

Major League Baseball said Friday that 251 of 882 players on opening-day rosters, injured lists and the restricted list were born outside of the United States. Among those, 102 were from the Dominican Republic. That comes to

11.6 percent, just behind the 11.7 percent record it set in 2007 with 99 of 849. The total of international players is the third highest behind 259 in 2017 and 254 last year. The 28.5 percent figure is down slightly from 29 percent last year and is the fifth-highest. The record of 29.8 percent was set in 2017.

Venezuela was second with 68, followed by Cuba (19); Puerto Rico (18); Mexico (eight); Japan and

Canada (six each); Curacao and South Korea (five each); and Colombia (four). Aruba, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Taiwan and the U.S. Virgin Islands have one each. The Minnesota Twins and the Pittsburgh Pirates have the most international-born players with 14 apiece, followed by the Chicago White Sox with 13 and Miami and Tampa Bay with 11 apiece. □

Dodgers set opening day mark with 8 HRs in win over Arizona

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Joc Pederson and Enrique Hernandez each hit two of the Los Angeles Dodgers' eight home runs Thursday in a 12-5 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

The Dodgers set a major league record for homers on opening day and tied the franchise mark for any game.

Hernandez, Austin Barnes and Corey Seager all homered in the fourth inning to chase Arizona ace Zack Greinke (0-1). Max Muncy, Cody Bellinger and Hernandez connected in the seventh for the power-packed Dodgers, whose pursuit of a third straight National League got off to a thrilling start.

Adam Jones and Christian Walker homered for the Diamondbacks, but their pitching staff's eight homers allowed also set a team record.

The Dodgers and Diamondbacks weren't the only ones going deep, either, as teams around the majors combined to set an all-time high for home runs on opening day.

Hyun-Jin Ryu (1-0) struck out eight over six stellar innings as Los Angeles' first opening day starter not named Clayton Kershaw since 2010. Kershaw's franchise-record streak of eight consecutive opening day starts ended due to left shoulder inflammation.

BREWERS 5, CARDINALS 4

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Center fielder Lorenzo Cain soared above the wall to rob Jose Martinez of a tying home run for the final out, lifting Christian Yelich and the Milwaukee Brewers over St. Louis.

With at least one Cardinals player in the bullpen already raising his arms to celebrate, Cain pulled back the pinch-hit drive by Martinez in right-center. A fired-up Cain flung the ball high into the air as the Brewers poured onto the field to celebrate.

Yelich got right back to work after winning the NL

MVP award last season, putting Milwaukee ahead to stay with a three-run homer off Miles Mikolas (0-1) in the third.

Mike Moustakas and pitcher Jhoulys Chacin (1-0) also connected for the Brewers in a performance that looked a lot like their run to the NL Championship Series last October. Josh Hader retired the first two batters before Cain's play finished off the save. Kolten Wong homered twice for the Cardinals, and Harrison Bader also connected. Paul Goldschmidt went 0 for 3 with three strikeouts and a walk in his first regular-season game for St. Louis.

METS 2, NATIONALS 0

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robinson Cano homered in his first at-bat for the Mets and added a late RBI single, Jacob deGrom outpitched Max Scherzer as each struck out at least 10 in a sterling matchup between the winners of the past three NL Cy Young Awards, and New York edged the Bryce Harper-less Washington Nationals.

A day after signing a \$137.5 million, five-year contract, deGrom (1-0) compiled 10 strikeouts with one walk and five hits in six innings, setting a major league record with his 30th consecutive start allowing three runs or fewer. The lanky righty topped runner-up Scherzer in Cy Young voting last season — and got the better of him in the win and run columns on this day. Scherzer (0-1) was charged with both Mets runs in 7 2/3 innings, with 12 Ks, three walks and two hits.

PHILLIES 10, BRAVES 4

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Bryce Harper struck out twice in green Phanatic cleats in his \$330 million debut and bowed to thousands of fans in No. 3 jerseys who gave him rousing standing ovations during Philadelphia's win over Atlanta.

Harper had the city electric in anticipation for his first game in Philly since he signed a \$330 million, 13-

year deal that was briefly the richest in baseball.

He went 0 for 3 with an intentional walk and failed to deliver a big hit — but no worries, the Phillies picked up the scoring slack. Harper's presence in the lineup helped blow the game open when the Braves walked the lefty slugger to load the bases. Rhys Hoskins followed with a grand slam off reliever Luke Jackson that broke open the game. Phillies newcomer Andrew McCutchen hit a leadoff homer against Julio Teheran (0-1). Maikel Franco added a three-run shot against the defending NL East champions.

Aaron Nola (1-0) won despite walking five in six innings.

ROCKIES 6, MARLINS 3

MIAMI (AP) — Kyle Freeland allowed two hits and one run over seven innings in his first opening day start as Colorado beat the sloppy Miami Marlins.

Freeland (1-0), who had a breakout 17-win season in 2018, retired his first 11 batters before Starlin Castro lined a single. The only other hit the left-hander gave up was a pinch-hit home run by J.T. Riddle leading off the sixth inning.

Neil Walker also had a pinch-hit homer in his first at-bat for Miami. Marlins teammate Jorge Alfaro homered with two out in the ninth.

Colorado's Nolan Arenado began earning his new \$260 million, eight-year contract when he doubled to start the fourth and scored the first run off Jose Urena (0-1). Trevor Story homered, and David Dahl had three hits and scored twice.

REDS 5, PIRATES 3

CINCINNATI (AP) — Pinch-hitter Derek Dietrich connected for a three-run homer in the seventh inning and the new-look Cincinnati Reds rallied past Pittsburgh.

Playing their first game under manager David Bell, the Reds got starring performances from two players signed for backup roles



Los Angeles Dodgers' Cody Bellinger hits a solo home run during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks, Thursday, March 28, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

last month. They also ended the game with a relief pitcher playing center field, a sign of Bell's openness to new ideas.

Jose Iglesias doubled twice and drove in a run. Jose Peraza's homer off Jameson Taillon (0-1) tied it in the seventh, and Dietrich put Cincinnati up 5-2 with his homer off Richard Rodriguez. Dietrich got a curtain call from the crowd of 44,049, the largest for a regular-season game at Great American Ball Park.

Reds newcomer Zach Duke (1-0) retired the two batters he faced. Cincinnati closer Raisel Iglesias came on in the eighth and gave up a solo homer by Corey Dickerson. Bell replaced him with two on in the ninth — another unconventional move. David Hernandez loaded the bases before retiring Dickerson on a grounder for his first save since 2017.

PADRES 2, GIANTS 0

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Manny Machado went hitless in his first game with San Diego but Fernando Tatis Jr. singled twice in his big league debut against San Francisco. Wil Myers homered

off Madison Bumgarner and added an RBI single in the start of a new era for the Padres, who popped above .500 for the first time since June 8, 2015.

The Padres signaled their intentions to move beyond the rebuilding stage when they signed Machado to a \$300 million, 10-year contract early in spring training. Then they promoted Tatis, whose father played in the big leagues for parts of 11 seasons, giving fans some hope after years of futility. San Diego hasn't had a winning season since 2010. Tatis became the youngest player with a multihit game on opening day since Milwaukee's Robin Yount in 1975.

Eric Lauer (1-0) threw six innings of four-hit ball. Bumgarner (0-1) struck out nine while allowing two runs and five hits in seven innings.

Kirby Yates pitched the ninth for a save.

It was the beginning of the end for Giants manager Bruce Bochy, who announced in spring training that he will retire at the end of this season, his 25th as a big league manager. □

Racing resumes without incident at Santa Anita

By BETH HARRIS
AP Racing Writer

ARCADIA, Calif. (AP) — Racing returned to Santa Anita without incident Friday after the track was closed nearly a month ago following the deaths of 22 horses that forced changes in rules.

Discrete Stevie B won the first race on the main dirt track in front of a small crowd that was typical of weekday attendance. Outside the track, about 20 protesters toted signs critical of the sport.

"The regulars were here today and they were happy we were back and running," said Tim Ritvo, chief operating officer of The Stronach Group, which owns Santa Anita. "It's hard to get excited about being back when we had such a bad run of catastrophic injuries."

All eight races, including three on turf, went off without problems under a sunny sky, a slight breeze and temperatures in the mid-70s.

Ritvo said total wagering was down about 10 percent compared to a similar day last year.

"We hope the real measurement would be next weekend," he said, referring to April 6 when the Santa Anita Derby and Santa Anita Handicap will comprise a major day of racing at the



In a photo provided by Benoit Photo, Epical and jockey Tyler Baze win the Grade II, \$200,000 San Luis Stakes horse race Friday, March 29, 2019, at Santa Anita in Arcadia, Calif.

Associated Press

Arcadia track.

In Friday's \$200,000 San Luis Rey Stakes, Risky Proposition was a late scratch on the recommendation of the track veterinarian. Epical won the Grade 2 race for trainer Jim Cassidy. The resumption of racing was being closely watched by the industry and the general public concerned about the safety of the horses.

"I'm just glad we got racing," Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert told The Associated Press. "This is the most beautiful track in America." Santa Anita had been without racing since March 3, leaving a variety of track employees idled without pay. The dirt surface was

inspected and renovated during the shutdown that followed the high number of horse deaths since Dec. 26.

Santa Anita was hit by nearly a foot of rain during an unusually cold and wet winter.

"I think that was the major problem," said Baffert, who didn't have any horses injured or die during the recent incidents.

Baffert had one starter on Friday. Rafal finished third as the 2-5 wagering favorite in the fifth race.

The decision to resume racing came after discussions between The Stronach Group, led by chief operating officer Belinda Stronach, the California Horse

Racing Board and the Thoroughbred Owners of California led to several rules changes at Santa Anita.

"Belinda has made it clear that eventually all tracks will be under stronger scrutiny, that status quo in the past isn't acceptable anymore and we have to do everything we can to try to protect the interests of the horse first," Ritvo said. "She tells me if we protect the interests of the horse we may have short term losses in business but we'll have long term gains in sustainability of the industry."

The biggest change in place Friday was an immediate reduction in the allowable dosage of the anti-bleeding medication known as Lasix on race days. The approved dosage of the drug that can help a horse's breathing dropped to 5 cc instead of 10 cc on race days.

"Five cc's is plenty for a horse," Baffert said.

Of the 67 horses that raced Friday, all but two ran on Lasix.

There were six scratches, including four in the first race. "Some of them have to do with the new initiatives we put in place," Ritvo said.

Next year in California, all 2-year-olds will be banned from race-day medication. Ritvo said ownership is paying increased attention to what he described as the

outside bubble, referring to the general public that doesn't follow the sport closely.

"Even if they're not fans, they're the ones that will go to Sacramento and they're the ones that will come out and vote and end our sport," he said. "There's more of them than we have customers, unfortunately."

A proposed rule limiting the use of a whip during races still requires approval by the racing board as well as a legal review by the state government, which is expected to take months.

Track announcer Frank Mirahmadi informed spectators before each race that the whip rule discussed at Thursday's racing board meeting was not in effect. Baffert suggested a closer examination of the sport needs to begin in the breeding shed, where millions of dollars are often involved.

"The trainers and owners are the only ones accountable. We're being regulated like crazy," Baffert told AP. "These horses are changing a lot of hands by the time we get to them. They need to look at that. The whole industry has to look at ourselves from within."

Only time will tell whether the changes curtail the string of horse fatalities. □



In this Monday, Jan. 28, 2019 file photo, patrons visit the sports betting area of Twin River Casino in Lincoln, R.I.

Associated Press

SPORTS BETTING

Continued from Page 17

Overall, most of the states with newly legal sports betting are on pace to fall short of their revenue

projections, but none are lagging as far behind as Rhode Island.

Rhode Island is just 1.3 percent of the way to its \$11.5 million goal. Rhode Island

Department of Revenue spokesman Paul Grimaldi said Friday that it will obviously be difficult to meet that goal and that the budget will have to be adjusted.

"We'll be better able to project revenue as we get more experience," he said. "I think the people who set their budget gave their best estimates based on the information they had and what the consultants were telling them. In some ways, we're learning a hard lesson."

Revenue for March is looking far better than February's figures due to the NCAA Tournament, Grimaldi said. Gamblers wagered \$6.4 million during the first round of the tournament

and the state is expecting about \$500,000 in revenue from just that round, he added. Gov. Gina Raimondo signed a bill Monday to allow sports betting to move online. Democratic Senate President Dominick Ruggerio and Democratic House Speaker Nicholas Mattiello introduced it to generate revenue and make betting more convenient. Ruggerio said Friday that the numbers will likely improve as the facilities are better prepared to accommodate everyone who wants to wager, with the self-serve kiosks that have been added and the future addition of mobile sports wagering.

"It is doubtful that revenue figures will hold up to esti-

mates, in large part due to a disappointing February, which was not unexpected due to the success of the Patriots," he said in a statement. "With the NCAA basketball tournament in full swing, I anticipate that March numbers will be much better."

Raimondo's proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 counts on \$30 million from sports betting, including \$3 million in new revenue from mobile gambling. Grimaldi said he thinks the \$30 million estimate will likely be lowered. Rhode Island legalized and launched sports betting after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal law last year that made most sports gambling illegal. □

Capitals beat Hurricanes 3-2 to clinch playoff spot

By The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Nic Dowd scored on a deflection with 4:56 remaining and the Washington Capitals clinched a playoff berth with a 3-2 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes on Thursday night.

Brett Connolly and Jakub Vrana also scored and Braden Holtby made 24 saves to help the defending Stanley Cup champions reach the 100-point mark for the fifth straight season and wrap up their 11th spot in the playoffs in 12 years. Alex Ovechkin — with 49 goals — was held off the score sheet and missed a long shot toward an empty net with about 45 seconds remaining.

Warren Foegele and Nino Niederreiter scored for the Hurricanes. They lost consecutive games in regulation for the first time since mid-January and missed out on an important two points that would have helped their chase for their first playoff berth in a decade.

ISLANDERS 5, JETS 4

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Casey Cizikas and Jordan Eberle scored 33 seconds apart in the final two minutes to lift New York past Winnipeg.

Cizikas took advantage

when Winnipeg couldn't clear the puck and scored with 1:46 to go to make it 4-4. Eberle added his second goal of the game with 1:13 left when he got into the crease and beat Connor Hellebuyck.

Eberle also picked up an assist and Ryan Pulock had three of his own. Mathew Barzal ended a 19-game goal drought with his 11th of the season, and Anders Lee scored his 28th for New York. The Islanders moved two points ahead of Pittsburgh and into second place in the Metropolitan Division.

Adam Lowry scored twice and added an assist, while Brandon Tanev had a goal and a pair of assists for Winnipeg. Mark Scheifele scored his 36th goal,

STARS 3, OILERS 2, SO

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Jamie Benn scored the shootout winner in Dallas' victory over Edmonton.

Alexander Radulov and Miro Heiskanen scored in regulation for the surging Stars. They won their third straight game to tighten their hold on the first wild-card spot in the Western Conference.

Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid scored for the Oilers.

BLUE JACKETS 6, CANA-

DIENS 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Oliver Bjorkstrand scored twice, Sergei Bobrovsky had 28 saves and Columbus beat Montreal to move into an Eastern Division wild-card spot.

The Blue Jackets tied Montreal for the second wild card and they hold the tiebreaker with five games remaining. Carolina is one point ahead in the first slot. David Savard, Artemi Panarin, Riley Nash and Brandon Dubinsky also scored for Columbus. Brett Kulak had a goal and an assist, and Jeff Petry also scored for Montreal.

RED WINGS 5, SABRES 4, OT

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Tyler Bertuzzi scored his second goal of the game in overtime to lift Detroit over Buffalo.

Dylan Larkin also had two goals for Detroit, Filip Hronek added a goal, and Jimmy Howard made 35 saves. Jack Eichel, Kyle Okposo, Marco Scandella and Casey Mittelstadt scored for Buffalo. The Sabres have lost 12 of their last 13 games.

PANTHERS 5, SENATORS 2

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Jonathan Huberdeau scored twice and Florida beat Ottawa to snap a three-game losing streak.



Carolina Hurricanes' Nino Niederreiter (21) tries to score on Washington Capitals goalie Braden Holtby as Capitals' Tom Wilson (43) defends during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Raleigh, N.C., Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Associated Press

Troy Brouwer, Dryden Hunt and Evgenii Dadonov also scored for Florida. Roberto Luongo made 28 saves.

Colin White and Brady Tkachuk scored for Ottawa.

BLACKHAWKS 5, SHARKS 4

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Alex DeBrincat scored twice to reach the 40-goal mark and the Chicago Blackhawks handed the Sharks their seventh straight loss.

Connor Murphy, Jonathan Toews and Chris Kunitz also scored to give the Blackhawks just their second win in the past six games. Corey Crawford made 26 saves.

Tomas Hertl had one goal and two assists in his 400th career game. Lukas Radil, Gustav Nyquist and Timo Meier also scored for San Jose.

Jose.

CANUCKS 3, KINGS 2, SO

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Tanner Pearson scored in the fourth round of the shootout and the Canucks kept their faint playoff hopes alive.

Brock Boeser and Alex Edler scored in regulation for the Canucks, who are seven points behind Colorado for the second wild-card spot in the Western Conference with four games to play. The win snapped a three-game losing skid for the Canucks. Quinn Hughes, selected seventh overall by Vancouver in 2018, earned an assist in his NHL debut. Austin Wagner and Adrian Kempe scored for the Kings. □

New venue, same result: John Isner back in Miami Open final

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Despite a change in venue, the Miami Open has a familiar look, with John Isner back in the final. The defending champion moved closer to another title by hitting 21 aces Friday and defeating 18-year-old Canadian qualifier Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4).

Next is a Sunday showdown in the Miami Dolphins' stadium, where the tournament moved this year from its longtime home of Key Biscayne.

"The venue is absolutely fantastic," said Isner, a big football fan. "To play in the

stadium — the Super Bowl will be here next year — it's pretty amazing."

Isner's opponent in the final will be the winner of Friday night's match between three-time champion Roger Federer and another Canadian teenager, 19-year-old Denis Shapovalov. Now 33, Isner won his only ATP Masters title a year ago on Key Biscayne.

"It's amazing," Isner told the crowd after his latest win. "I said before the tournament the chances were I would not defend my title. I'm very, very happy."

The women's final Saturday will match No. 5 Karolina

Pliskova of the Czech Republic against No. 12 Ashleigh Barty of Australia.

Auger-Aliassime served for both sets in the semifinal, but Isner broke each time by taking advantage of double-faults, and then used his big serve to control the tiebreakers.

Nine of his 10 sets in the tournament have gone to a tiebreaker, and he has won each one. But Auger-Aliassime figured neither set should have gotten to that point.

"It's a chance you can't miss, serving two times for the set," he said. "Just terrible." □



John Isner returns to Felix Auger-Aliassime, of Canada, during their semifinal match at the Miami Open tennis tournament, Friday, March 29, 2019, in Miami Gardens, Fla. Isner won 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4).

Associated Press

To imagine the '5G' future, revisit our recent wireless past

By TALI ARBEL

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The mobile industry is cranking up its hype machine for sleek new "5G" networks that it says will make your phone and everything else faster and wonderful. If you believe the marketing.

But no one can really say how 5G will change your life; many of the apps and services that will exploit its speed haven't been created yet. Look back at the last big wireless upgrade, though, and you can get a sense of how profound that change might be.

Apple launched the iPhone in 2007, and it quickly became obvious that the era's 3G wireless networks couldn't handle millions of people uploading photos of their kid's playdate to Facebook or obsessing over "Words with Friends." Not to mention managing their finances, health care and shopping for everything from shoes to homes. "When the smartphone came out it brought the 3G network to its knees," Stanford engineering professor Andrea Goldsmith said. "The success of smartphones was because of 4G."

4G speeds, the ones we're used to today, made possible many of the things we now take for granted on our phones — Instagram, cloud



In this May 22, 2017, file photo Nick Blase with True North Management Services climbs down from a cellular phone tower after performing maintenance as it is silhouetted against the sky in High Ridge, Mo.

Associated Press

storage, Netflix streaming. Or, for instance, that ride you got home from the bar. Without 4G, there would be no Uber or Lyft, which need connections fast and strong enough to call a driver on a moment's notice, show customers where their driver is and give the companies the ability to track drivers in real-time. That's not something 3G could handle. Today, about 80 percent of U.S. adults have a smartphone, according to Pew Research Center, while industry group GSMA says 60 percent of the world's 5 billion cellphones users

do, too. Mobile video, including ones created by ordinary people, makes up 60 percent of all data traffic globally, according to telecom-equipment maker Ericsson.

"Video was near-impossible to use effectively on 3G," said Dan Hays, a mobile networks expert at consultancy PwC. "4G made mobile video a reality." Its influence has marked our world. Citizens filmed protests, police violence and revolutions on their phones. TV and movies disconnected from the living-room set and movie the-

ater. Our attention spans were whipsawed by constant pings and constant hot fresh "content."

To watch Netflix in high-definition video, you need speed of at least 5 megabits per second; that's where Verizon's 4G network download speed range started in its early days. (Upload was and remains slower, a frustration for anyone who has ever tried to send a video from a crowd.) Trying to stream a live video over Facebook, had this feature even existed in the 3G era, "wouldn't have worked, or it would have

worked inconsistently, or only under the best conditions," said Nikki Palmer, head of product development for Verizon, the largest U.S. mobile carrier. "You would have got failures, you would have got retries, you would have got the equivalent of stalling on the network."

While 4G brought on a communications revolution and spawned startups now worth billions, even it wasn't all it was hyped up to be.

See AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson in March 2011, talking about 4G and cloud computing in an attempt to win support for a proposed acquisition of rival T-Mobile: "Very soon we expect every business process, we expect every system in your home and in your car, every appliance, all your entertainment content, your work, all of your personal data, everything is going to be wirelessly connected."

Not quite yet. Smart homes are not mainstream, and wireless business processes are a lot of what's exciting the wireless industry about 5G.

Hays remembers talking about the possibilities 4G would create for virtual and augmented reality. Those, of course, have yet to materialize. Just wait 'til next G. □

Artificial intelligence pioneers win tech's 'Nobel Prize'



This undated photo provided by Mila shows Yoshua Bengio, a professor at the University of Montreal and scientific director at the Artificial Intelligence Institute in Quebec.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Computers have become so smart during the past 20 years that people don't think twice about chatting with digital assistants like Alexa and Siri or seeing their friends automatically tagged in Facebook pictures.

But making those quantum leaps from science fiction to reality required hard work from computer scientists like Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton and Yann LeCun. The trio tapped into their own brainpower to make it possible for machines to learn like humans, a breakthrough now com-

monly known as "artificial intelligence," or AI.

Their insights and persistence were rewarded Wednesday with the Turing Award, an honor that has become known as technology industry's version of the Nobel Prize. It comes with a \$1 million prize funded by Google, a company where AI has become part of its DNA.

The award marks the latest recognition of the instrumental role that artificial intelligence will likely play in redefining the relationship between humanity and technology in the decades ahead.

"Artificial intelligence is now

one of the fastest-growing areas in all of science and one of the most talked-about topics in society," said Cherri Pancake, president of the Association for Computing Machinery, the group behind the Turing Award.

Although they have known each other for than 30 years, Bengio, Hinton and LeCun have mostly worked separately on technology known as neural networks. These are the electronic engines that power tasks such as facial and speech recognition, areas where computers have made enormous strides over the past decade. □

1Q Market Review: Great returns, but with a twist at the end

By STAN CHOE

NEW YORK (AP) — It's been a fabulous start to the year for investors — as long as you ignore all those simmering worries about a possible recession.

S&P 500 index funds are on pace to close out their best quarter in seven years, having returned nearly 12.5 percent in 2019 through Wednesday, and many other investments from junk bonds to foreign stocks have also bounced back from their dismal end to 2018. But the returns would have been even better if not for concerns that slowing growth around the world may drag down the U.S. economy.

The quarter's twists are just the latest for the markets, which have yo-yoed from record heights to fear-induced sell-offs for more than a year.

The big swings have left stock and bonds looking fairly valued, said Frances Donald, head of macroeconomics strategy at Manulife Asset Management. She's optimistic markets can keep climbing this year, but she anticipates more swings along the way. When she talks with big institutional investors, the mood is usually one of nervousness, she says.

"The 2020 recession calls, whether they're right or wrong, have permeated all individual investor mentalities," she said.

The Fed was again one of the market's main drivers, and it flipped to hero from antagonist in the eyes of many investors.

As last year was closing, investors were worried that the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates too quickly and choke off the economy. The central bank raised short-term rates in December for the seventh time in two years, and the S&P 500 fell more than 19 percent from late September through Dec. 24, nearly taking down the longest bull market for U.S. stocks on record.

But on Jan. 4, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell told a conference for economists that the central bank



In this March 7, 2019, file photo specialist Matthew Grenier works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

would be flexible in deciding when to raise rates. It was an immediate balm for investors, and the S&P 500 leaped 3.4 percent that day. It kept climbing until hitting a peak on March 21, the day after the Fed said that it may not raise rates at all this year.

All the while, companies were turning in yet another round of blockbuster profit reports aided by lower taxes. Earnings per share for S&P 500 companies surged 13 percent during the last three months of 2018 from a year earlier, led by big gains for energy and communications companies. But the momentum for stocks stalled last week when a surprisingly weak report on the European economy and other worries triggered concerns about the global economy. Investors sought the safety of bonds, and that in turn triggered the alarm on one of the market's more reliable recession indicators.

Investors drove the yield for the 10-year Treasury lower than for the three-month Treasury bill for the first time since a little before the Great Recession. Such an "inverted yield curve" does not have a perfect track record as a recession predictor, but it has preceded each of the last seven by a

year or two. Here's a look at some of the moves that shaped the last quarter for investments:

— STOCK FUNDS SOARED

During the fourth-quarter swoon the S&P 500 fell as much as 19.8 percent from its all-time high set Sept. 20. The Fed's pledge for patience helped the index rally back to within 2.6 percent of the peak this quarter.

Technology stocks again did much of the work, but the gains were widespread. Funds specializing in small stocks or large, energy companies or real estate, all logged gains. The largest mutual fund by assets, Vanguard's Total Stock Market Index fund returned 12.8 percent for the quarter through Wednesday, on pace for its best performance since a 12.9 percent return at the start of 2012.

Stock funds that focus on high-growth companies, such as tech, again easily bested their counterparts that look for low-priced stocks, called value funds. The average mid-cap growth stock fund returned 16.3 percent, for example, versus 12 percent for mid-cap value funds.

Value stock funds trailed partly because they often have lots of banks and oth-

er financial stocks, which lagged during the quarter on worries that lower interest rates and slower economy will hurt their profits.

— BOND FUNDS CLIMBED AS YIELDS FELL

Inflation is still low, the Fed is holding the line on interest rates and worries are rising about the strength of the economy. All those help push up prices for bonds, and pull yields down, and bond funds of all types powered to gains during the quarter.

Vanguard's Total Bond Mar-

ket Index fund, the largest bond fund by assets, has returned 2.8 percent and is on track for its best quarter in three years.

The Fed's patient stance was particularly helpful for funds that focus on short-term bonds, whose prices are more dependent on the central bank's moves than longer-term bonds. The average short-term bond fund has returned 1.8 percent through Wednesday, according to Morningstar. That's more than triple the return in any of the prior seven quarters.

— WHAT'S AHEAD?

Like the global economy, growth is also slowing for U.S. corporate earnings. Analysts say first-quarter profits likely fell nearly 4 percent from a year earlier, according to FactSet. If they're right, it would be the first decline in nearly three years. That's setting the stage for some potentially disappointing reports when the next quarter opens on April 1.

So, investors may want to ready themselves for even more turbulence in the coming quarter. Besides earnings reports, they'll also be getting more clues about the strength of the global economy and whether the United States and China can make progress on their trade dispute to help the global outlook. □

US consumer spending edges up weak 0.1 percent in January

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer spending edged up a tiny 0.1 percent in January, while incomes advanced a modest 0.2 percent in February, further evidence that economic activity may have decelerated after strong growth for most of last year.

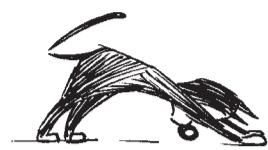
The Commerce Department says the weak gain in consumer spending in January followed a 0.6 percent plunge in Decem-

ber that represented the biggest one-month drop in more than nine years. The 0.2 percent rise in incomes in February came after a 0.1 percent drop in incomes in January.

Many analysts believe the economy has entered a soft patch and that growth is significantly slower in the current quarter. The U.S. faces various headwinds, including weakness overseas and the waning effects of the 2017 tax cuts. □

Mutts

DOWNDOWN-FACING DOG.



Conceptis Sudoku

7	5			1	2
1			4	7	
	9		1	4	
6		4			
	7			2	
	8			3	
	4		5	7	
	5	1			6
9	3			8	1

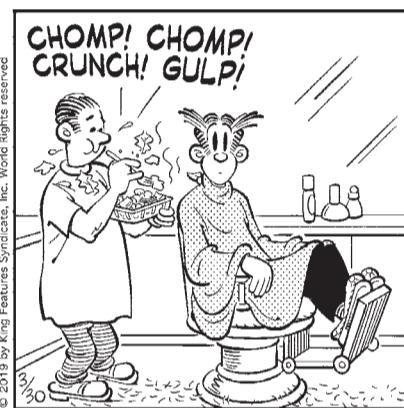
Difficulty Level ★★★★

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6 Chix



Blondie



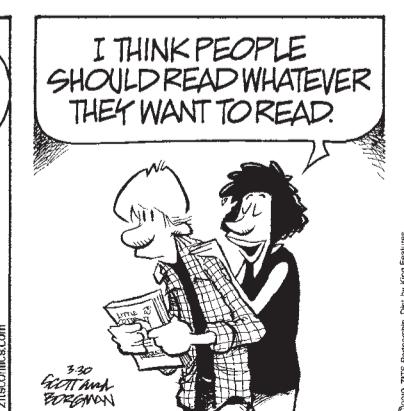
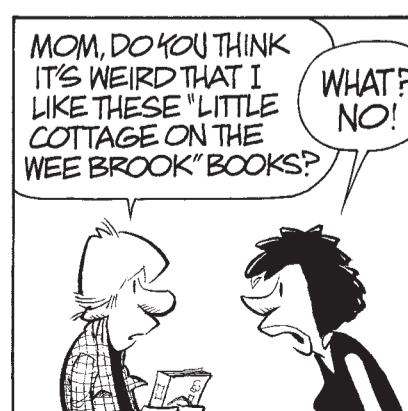
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



5	4	9	7	2	8	6	3	1
3	7	1	6	9	4	8	5	2
2	6	8	1	5	3	7	9	4
9	1	4	3	7	2	5	8	6
8	3	7	5	1	6	4	2	9
6	2	5	4	8	9	3	1	7
7	5	3	2	6	1	9	4	8
4	8	2	9	3	7	1	6	5
1	9	6	8	4	5	2	7	3

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13		14	15						16			
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56			57			58			59			
60			61			62						
63			64			65						

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/30/19

Friday's Puzzle Solved

O	I	L	A	W	A	S	H	S	N	O	W
T	U	N	A	D	I	X	I	E	H	V	I
A	C	T	S	O	V	E	R	W	O	R	Y
P	H	I	F	R	E	D	S	P	E	R	S
M	O	L	E	S	D	E	W				
R	A	I	N	E	D	W	A	R	D		
A	D	D	E	Y	Z	L	A	N			
M	I	A	S	B	R	I	D	F	G	H	I
P	O	T	E	R	O	D	E	H	O	A	R
S	E	A	L	E	D	T	O	N	G		
T	O	W	C	A	S	T	E				
S	L	O	O	P	R	A	V	E	M	B	A
N	O	M	E	D	L	U	M	E	L	O	N
A	V	I	D	E	A	G	E	I	N	D	Y
G	E	T	S	T	Y	S	O	N	S	T	Y

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- 33 Marine mammals 48 Small rodents
- 35 Moccasin or loafer 49 Actress Sheedy
- 38 Educated 50 Stickum
- 39 Temporary 52 Panic
- 41 Bit of soot 53 Cabbie's customer
- 42 Vittles 54 Zero
- 44 Goes skyward 55 Alumnus, for short
- 45 June and others 59 Rushmore & Fuji: abbr.
- 47 Outperforms



This Feb. 14, 2019, file photo shows a Honda logo on a 2019 Honda Civic at the 2019 Pittsburgh International Auto Show in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Takata air bags claim another life after Arizona crash

DETROIT (AP) — An Arizona man killed by an exploding Takata air bag inflator brings the worldwide death toll to at least 24.

Armando V. Ortega, 55, of Yuma, died June 11, 2018, three days after his 2002 Honda Civic was involved in a crash in near Phoenix, according to the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Honda said in a statement that the Civic driver was hit by shrapnel and injured. He later died at a hospital.

The death, which wasn't reported to a federal agency until this month, is the 16th in the U.S. caused by the air bags, which can explode with too much force and hurl shrapnel into drivers and passengers. Seven

people were killed in Malaysia and one in Australia. More than 200 people also have been hurt by the inflators, which have caused the largest series of automotive recalls in U.S. history involving with as many as 70 million inflators to be recalled by the end of next year. About 100 million inflators are to be recalled worldwide.

"This is a critical reminder of the serious nature of the Takata airbag recall and serves as an important call to action," NHTSA said in a statement Friday. The agency urged owners to check for open recalls by keying in their 17-digit vehicle identification number into the NHTSA website, www.nhtsa.gov/recalls. □

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This photo provided by NASA, astronauts Nick Hague and Christina Koch float outside the International Space Station, Friday, March 29, 2019, a week after the first spacewalk to install new and stronger batteries for the station's solar power grid.

Associated Press

Spacewalking astronauts install better batteries

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Spacewalking astronauts hustled through battery hookups outside the International Space Station on Friday in a major upgrade of the solar power grid.

NASA's Christina Koch and Nick Hague successfully installed a set of new and stronger batteries, continuing replacement work that began a week ago.

It wasn't the team NASA envisioned. Koch was supposed to go out with astronaut Anne McClain for the first all-female spacewalk. But the lineup was changed because there weren't two medium suits readily available for the women. After NASA took heat for the switch, McClain explained that the decision was based on her recommendation.

"Safety of the crew and execution of the mission come first," McClain, an Army aviator, said via Twitter this week.

Koch — the 14th woman to conduct a spacewalk

— arrived at the space station two weeks ago along with Hague. McClain, who last week became the 13th female spacewalker, has been on board since December. More than 200 men have walked in space.

The space station's outdated nickel-hydrogen batteries are being replaced with lithium-ion batteries, a lengthy process spanning years. These batteries store power collected by the solar wings and keep the outpost running when it's on the night side of Earth. The big robot arm at the space station took care of the heavy lifting in advance, removing the old batteries and placing the new ones in the empty slots earlier this week.

Besides attaching three fresh batteries, Koch and Hague disconnected one of the three installed last week because of higher voltage than expected. It will be replaced by two old-style batteries until a spare arrives. □



In this June 13, 2017 file photo, a red wolf female peers back at her 7-week old pup in their habitat at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, N.C.

Associated Press

Government-funded study says red wolves are distinct species

By JONATHAN DREW and MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — A panel of top scientists concluded Thursday that the endangered red wolf of the southeastern U.S. is a species unto itself, giving the beleaguered canine a scientific and political boost as its numbers plummet in the wild.

The government-funded study by the National Academy of Sciences also found that the Mexican gray wolf of New Mexico and Arizona is a subspecies, which advocates say should support conservation efforts.

Another wolf species, the Western gray wolf, is thriving in the Northern Rockies and Great Lakes and could lose federal protections under a proposal released earlier this month.

For red wolves, the affirmation of their genetic uniqueness comes after some North Carolina officials and a small but vocal group of landowners pushed the government to abandon recovery efforts, arguing the animal is a coyote hybrid.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Laury Parhamore declined to comment on the agency-funded study beyond a statement saying it was under review.

Red wolves once occupied much of the Eastern U.S. but were driven to near extinction by trapping, hunting and habitat loss. Some of the last red wolves in the wild were removed from portions of Louisiana and Texas in 1980 and used in a captive breeding program. Their descendants were later reintroduced to a wildlife refuge along North Carolina's coast.

An estimated 35 wild red wolves remained as of late 2018, down from about 120 a decade ago. Their range is currently limited to five North Carolina counties. Another 200 live in captive breeding programs.

Acknowledging longstanding questions among some scientists about red wolf ancestry, federal wildlife officials said last year they would treat it as a distinct species while awaiting Thursday's report.

The nine-member national academy panel found that the red wolf is unique based on its DNA, its behavior and its size, which is larger than a coyote and smaller than a gray wolf.

While the red wolf appears more closely related to coyotes than gray wolves, red wolves diverged as their own species long ago, said Joseph Travis, chair of the national academy panel and a biology professor at Florida State University. □

"There's clearly been introduction of coyote genes and gray wolf genes into red wolves. But they also have genes not seen in coyotes and gray wolves," Travis said in an interview. "They must have continuity with some ancestor which was not a gray wolf or coyote."

Ron Sutherland, a biologist with the nonprofit Wildlands Network, said he had been waiting on "pins and needles" to see what the panel decided.

"That should be a kick in the butt for the Fish and Wildlife Service to stop the quiet negligence of letting the species go extinct in the wild," he said.

A government plan to further shrink the territory where red wolves roam stalled last year when a judge ruled officials were neglecting their duty to protect the animals under the Endangered Species Act. That same plan would have allowed landowners to kill any wolves that strayed from the proposed smaller territory consisting of federal land in two counties.

Conservationists accused the federal agency of neglecting the animals under political pressure and abandoning proven conservation techniques, such as releasing captive bred pups. □

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Agnes Varda, French New Wave pioneer, dies at 90

By JAKE COYLE
SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Agnes Varda, the French New Wave pioneer who for decades beguiled, challenged and charmed moviegoers in films that inspired generations of filmmakers, has died. She was 90.

Varda's production company, Cine-Tamaris, said Varda died early morning Friday at her home in Paris from cancer.

With a two-tone bowl haircut, the Belgian-born Varda was a spirited, diminutive figure who towered over more than a half century of moviemaking. Her first film, made at the age of 27, "La Pointe Courte," earned her the nickname Grandmother of the New Wave, even though she — the sole woman among the movement — was a contemporary of its participants, including Jean-Luc Godard and Jacques Demy, whom she later married.

A photographer-turned-filmmaker, Varda's films fluctuated between fiction and documentary, often blurring the line in between. Her 1962 breakthrough, "Cleo From 5 to 7," followed a glamorous woman (Corinne Marchand) in real time across Paris while she awaited results of a cancer exam. In her 2017 Oscar-nominated road trip "Faces Places," she traversed the French countryside with the street artist JR, pasting giant images of people they encountered on building facades.

"Life comes through the frame and through the stock. It's like a filter," Varda said in an interview in 2017. "I feel I am an artist but I am a movie maker. I make a film with my hands. I love the editing, I love the mixing. It's a tool to make other people exist. It's giving understanding between people."

Varda worked almost right up to her death, releasing the scrapbook documentary "Varda by Agnes" earlier this year. She had originally intended her 2008 cinematic memoir "Beaches by Agnes" to be her swan



In this May 19, 2017 file photo, filmmaker Agnes Varda appears at the screening of the film "Visages, Villages," at the 70th international film festival, Cannes, southern France.

Associated Press

song but, to her surprise, ended up with another decade of work. "I'm 90 and I don't care," she says into the camera in "Varda by Agnes."

In 2015, Varda was given an honorary Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. In 2017, she was given an honorary Academy Award. But she was more content, she said, "in the margins." "I'm flattered," she said of the Oscar, "but not that much."

Varda's films quickly became feminist landmarks and she a champion of women behind the camera. One of the only female filmmakers in France when she started, she led an insurgency that continued, in greater number, through her life. At the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, she helped preside over a protest for gender equality on the red carpet steps of the festival's central Palais with 81 other women.

At the premiere of what she called her "feminist musical," "One Sings, the Other Doesn't," in 1977, she introduced "a film about women who were also people." Her "Vagabond," which won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival in 1985, followed a young female

drifter (Sandrine Bonnaire) discovered dead in a freezing ditch.

"When I started, my point was not to be a woman," said Varda. "I wanted to do radical cinema."

Varda's death was immediately felt across the movie industry. The Cannes Film Festival said: "The place she occupied is irreplaceable. Agnès loved images, words and people. She's one of those whose youth will never fade." "Moonlight" filmmaker Barry Jenkins recalled a legend whose "life and work were undeniably fused."

Arlette Varda was born in Brussels, Belgium on May 30, 1928 to a French mother and Greek father. Varda, who later changed her name to Agnes, started as a photographer after studying literature and arts. In 1951, she was appointed official photographer of the Theatre National Populaire, and remained in that position for the next decade.

In 1954, well before Godard and Francois Truffaut became the emblematic figures of the New Wave, Varda's first movie, "La Pointe Courte," followed a couple going through a crisis in the small port of Sete on the Mediterranean

coast. The movie was cut by Alain Resnais but was regarded as too radical at the time and only had a limited release. Varda contrasted the young couple's story with the local villagers' struggle to survive, eventually linking the two seemingly disparate ways of life. She deliberately used a real fishing village, wanting to give the film the look of a documentary. "I've always been using reality as a texture to understand better," she said. "I like for stories to look true."

She made several documentary shorts, but inadequate funds prevented Varda from making her next feature, "Cleo From 5 to 7," until 1961. Backed by French businessman Georges de Beauregard, who had supported Jean-Luc Godard's "Breathless," the film studied Cleo's evolution from a shallow pop star to an authentic human being capable of understanding pain in herself and others.

"I obliged myself to follow the time. Ninety minutes, one after another. Real time and real geography," said Varda. "I filmed all the steps, all the streets. What she does, it could be retraced. I gave myself some-

thing difficult because inside the difficulty, I wanted to hear her heart beating." The widely hailed "Cleo" built anticipation for her next film, "Happiness," which won the Silver Bear award at the 1965 Berlin Festival.

Varda married Demy, the "Umbrellas of Cherbourg" director, in 1962 and they were married until his death in 1990. They worked separately but alongside each other, regularly occupying opposite sides of the courtyard of their Paris home.

The filmmaking couple also spent several years in Hollywood in the late '60s. Demy made "Model Shop" there while Varda befriended Jim Morrison of the Doors (she was one of just a handful of people to attend Morrison's 1971 funeral in Paris' Père Lachaise cemetery), filmed the Los Angeles-set "Lions Love" and interviewed the imprisoned Black Panther leader Huey Newton for the 1968 documentary "Black Panthers."

She and Demy had two children together: Mathieu Demy and Rosalie Varda, who both found career in French filmmaking. Varda is survived by both.

Demy's death fueled Varda's late period of documentaries, including several heartfelt tributes to her husband including 1991's "Jacquot de Nantes."

"I had to stay alive even though he died. I made two films about him."

Then I went off and I did cinema. Fiction films are beautiful but documentaries put you at peace with the world. You try to make the world understandable, make the people come near to you."

One of those documentaries, the 2000 film "The Gleaners and I," is considered by some her masterpiece. Documenting people who live off the garbage thrown out by others, it's a meditation on waste and reuse, art and death.

"Filming, especially a documentary, is gleaning," Varda told IndieWire. "Because you pick what you find. You bend. You go around. You are curious." □

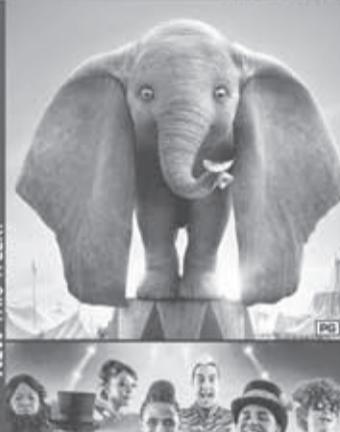
Happy hunting Bonnie and Clyde in 'The Highwaymen'

By MARK KENNEDY

It's hard to begin watching the Netflix movie "The Highwaymen" and not think about the way it will inevitably end — in a famous ambush and a hail of bullets.

That's what happened to Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow on May 23, 1934, the day the law finally caught up to the couple who had spent years on a multi-state murder spree.

For film fans of a certain age, we've practically seen the fatal ambush. "The Highwaymen" is haunted by the 1967 film "Bonnie and Clyde," which had at its final scene a torrent of gunfire riddling Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty. That film romanticized the criminal duo who killed 13, and their fatal ambush seemed less like a necessary law enforcement action than a gutless slaying.



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This image released by Netflix shows Woody Harrelson, left, and Kevin Costner in a scene from "The Highwaymen."

Associated Press

Now, 52 years later, comes the reverse view with "The Highwaymen," screenwriter John Fusco's tale of how two handkerchief-wiping, retired Texas Rangers tracked them down.

If Bonnie and Clyde were the heroes of director Arthur Penn's 1967 film, lawmen Frank Hamer (Kevin Costner) and Maney Gault (Woody Harrelson) are the ones here — gruff, taciturn and hard-nosed officers. Director John Lee Hancock is so unwilling to glamorize the young outlaws that he virtually never focuses his camera on Bonnie and Clyde, instead using dreamlike filters or odd angles.

Like its predecessor, there's lots of cultural commentary going on in the moody and enjoyable Netflix take — issues of criminal determinism, ageism, poverty, moral compromising and, of course, celebrity.

A cult sprang up around Bonnie and Clyde — including women aping Bonnie's fashion — and fans gland-handed the pair like movie stars. Harrelson's character notes that while talent used to lead to fame, "now you just shoot people."

There's a throw-back, Western feel to the film, with its flabby, creaky heroes

begged to come out of retirement, just this once, to hunt down the killers, only to endure guff by the new generation for their old fashioned methods.

"Your time has past, cowboy," one young officer tells them, revealing that law enforcement has become addicted to wire taps and aerial surveillance. Instead, Hamer and Gault have their gut instincts and tested skills, like looking at footprints in dirt. Hamer knows where to find the duo: "Outlaws and mustangs always come home," he says. The film has been gestating so long that it was once going to star Robert Redford and Paul Newman, which raises all kinds of nostalgia issues. (Think about the leads of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" and "The Sting" donning fedoras and dark suits, getting into Depression-era Fords and fighting on the OTHER side of the law).

Costner plays his Hamer like a classic Costner role: silent and focused, with a moral charisma and a sly hint of sweetness underneath the grumpy exterior. Harrelson turns in another fine performance, just the kind of sassy, good ol' boy you'd want next to you on a stakeout. "I'm above

ground and ready to go," he tells his partner. They're a great odd couple.

The script at times tries too hard — "There's always blood at the end of the road" is one clunky line — and lingers a little too much on symbols (like greyhound hood ornaments). There's a very evocative score by Thomas Newman and Hancock's style is cool and un-rushed, letting the miles of highway roll and making his action sequences feel all the more electric when they occur.

Now, when it comes to the end, this film describes the final shoot-out in a very different way than "Bonnie and Clyde." (Hint, the cops had some honor.) The film often feels in many ways as an attempt to correct history, or at least the previous Dunaway-Beatty-led portrayal of a bumbling Hamer. But there are moments of beautiful stillness and nicely-filmed sequences — like a nifty car chase in dust clouds — that make the hunt enjoyable. You'll know how it ends, but this time things are different: The good guys win.

"The Highwaymen," a Netflix release, is rated R for violence and language. Running time: 132 minutes. Three stars out of four. □

Cancellations of Latino-themed shows spark anger, reflection

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— Netflix's cancellation of "One Day at a Time" has led to an outcry on social media by the show's viewers. And fans of CW's "Jane the Virgin" are preparing to say goodbye a show entering its fifth and final season. The departure of the two Latino-themed shows demonstrates the challenges such projects still encounter on networks and streaming services. Networks may feel pressure to tap into the growing Latino population — now the largest minority group in the U.S. — but the shows often receive limited promotions and are on a short leash from executives who want to see good ratings fast. Advocates of more diversity on television say these shows are often given difficult time slots or are buried deep in the maze of streaming apps. "It was such a bummer with 'One Day at a Time,'" Mishel Prada, who plays Emma in the Starz series "Vida," told The Associated Press. "Things are changing, but it hasn't changed (enough)." ABC faced a similar reaction when it canceled the 2014 sitcom "Cristela," starring stand-up comedian Cristela Alonzo, after one



This image released by Netflix shows Rita Moreno, from left, Marcel Ruiz and Justina Machado in a scene from "One Day At A Time."

Associated Press

season. The show aired late on Fridays and averaged around 5 million viewers. Likewise, Fox drew criticism when it canceled the 2016 adult animated sitcom "Bordertown," also after one season, despite its cult following in a tough Sunday timeslot.

The cancellations of "Cristela" and "Bordertown" drew anger from Latino audiences and demands that networks produce more shows

with Hispanic characters. William Nericcio, a professor at the Center for Latin American Studies at San Diego State University and co-author of the upcoming book "Talking #BrownTV: Latinas and Latinos on the Screen," said there is a hunger for Latino-themed shows.

"But the business is the business. Shows need viewers," Nericcio said. "It's show business, not show art."

For shows to be successful, they must overcome limited publicity from networks and sometimes must rely on word-of-mouth recommendations, Nericcio said. The success of Netflix's "Roma," for example, was driven by the streaming service's public relations campaign but also by Mexican-Americans who rallied around its star, Yalitza Aparicio, the Oscar-nominated indigenous Mexican

actress.

"Roma" appeared to signal that Latino-themed shows and movies might get more support from networks, Nericcio said.

While fans lament the end of "One Day at a Time" and "Jane the Virgin," other TV shows featuring U.S. Latino characters are trying to capture the attention of fragmented audiences, including those looking for diversity.

Starz is scheduled in May to unveil the second season of "Vida," which follows two Mexican-American sisters in East Los Angeles. This month, Netflix is releasing the second season of the teen dramedy "On My Block," set in a working-class Latino and black neighborhood in Southern California. And Nickelodeon is putting the final touches on "The Casagrandes," a spin-off of its animated series "The Loud House," featuring a Latino family.

"Jane the Virgin," starring Gina Rodriguez as Jane Villanueva, is a reboot of the Venezuelan telenovela "Juana La Virgen" and saw its ratings slowly decline since it debuted in October 2014. Its final season began Wednesday and the finale is scheduled for this summer. □

Steve Earle's 'Guy' digs deep in mentor Clark's work

By PABLO GORONDI

Steve Earle, "Guy" (New West Records)

Guy Clark was one of Steve Earle's main mentors—Townes Van Zandt, the other—and Earle has honored the brilliant songwriter, who died in 2016, before.

On his previous album, from 2017, Earle wrote a farewell to the master, "Goodbye Michelangelo," and sang "The Last Gunfighter Ballad" on an extended 2011 Clark tribute record that also featured Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris and Rodney Crowell, among many others.

With the Grammy-winning "Townes" added to Earle's catalog in 2009, it was only a matter of time before

"Guy" came along. "When I get to the other side, I didn't want to run into Guy having made the 'Townes' record and not one about him," Earle says, and the Clark songs fit him and his weathered voice like a second skin.

Earle chose nine of the 16 tunes here from Clark's 1975 debut ("Old No. 1") and its 1976 follow-up, "Texas Cookin,'" including such classics as "Desperados Waiting for a Train," and "L.A. Freeway," and the performances with The Dukes add some occasional electricity to the originals but don't stray far.

The wattage gets an extra boost on "Out in the Parking Lot," which a late-

career Clark co-wrote with Darrell Scott, and the change from Clark's more reflective reading suits it just grand. Touching closer, "Old Friends" expands the circle to include vocals from other Clark acolytes like Harris, Crowell, Terry Allen and Jerry Jeff Walker. From Johnny Cash to Lyle Lovett, Clark's songs have been covered extensively over the years, but the Texan had a knack for recording the definitive versions himself. Still, "Guy" ensures that, whenever Earle's next meeting with Clark may come, Earle has done well by his old friend with this heartfelt tribute and there'll be no need for reproaches. □



This cover image released by New West Records shows "Guy," a release by Steve Earle.

Associated Press



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